



JOURNALS
of the
HOUSE OF BURGESSES
of Virginia

1773--1776





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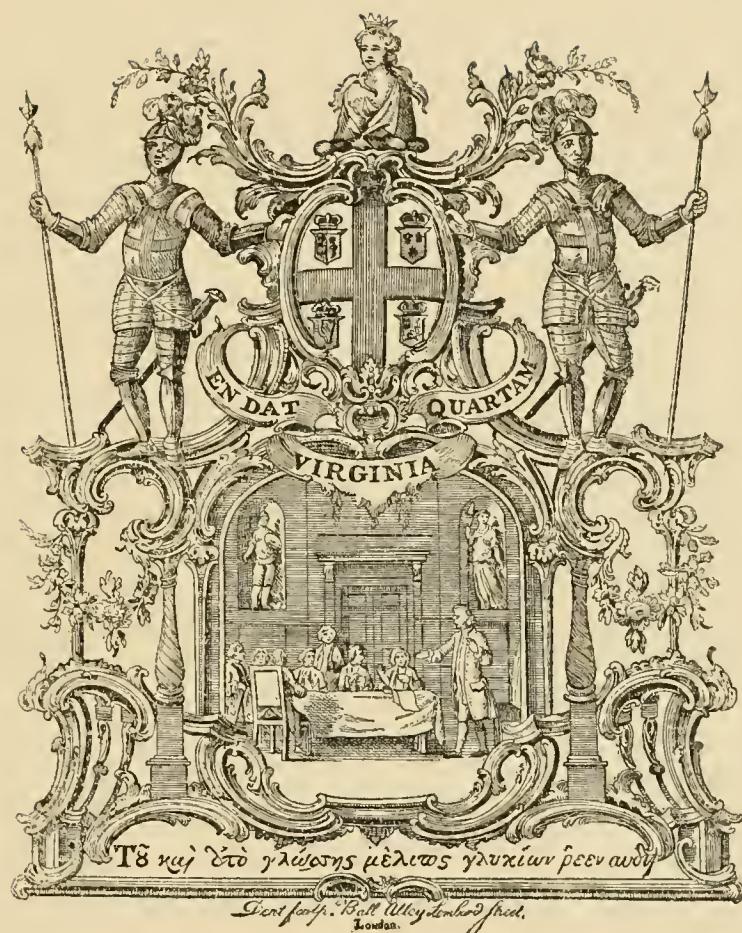


The House of Burgesses of Virginia



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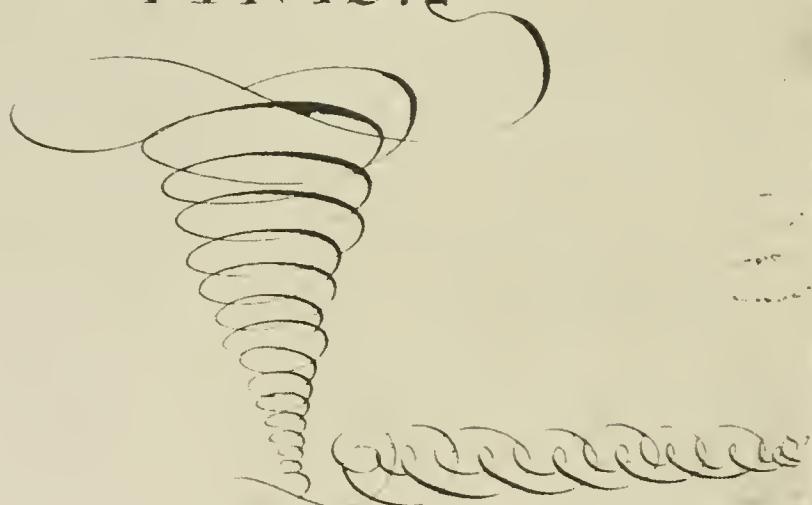
Virginia Council Chamber

Thursday the 12th of October 15th Geo M. 1775.
The House met according to the Adjournment but no more
than thirty seven Members appearing which was not a sufficient
number to proceed to Business. ()
The House adjourned till the first Tuesday in Nov next.

Thursday the 7th of March 16th Geo M. 1776.
The House met according to the Adjournment but no more
than thirty two Members appearing which was not a sufficient
number to proceed to Business. ()
The House adjourned till the first Monday in May next.

Monday the 6th of May 16th Geo M. 1776.
Several Members met but did neither proceed to
Business nor adjourn, in a House of Burgesses. ()

FINIS.



Virginia (Colony) General Assembly

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JOURNALS

of the

HOUSE of BURGESSES

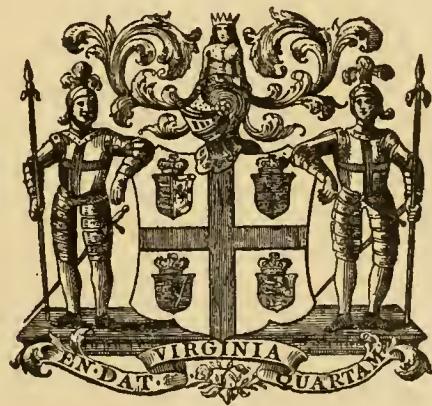
of

VIRGINIA

1773-1776

Including the records of the
Committee of Correspondence

Edited by
JOHN PENDLETON KENNEDY



RICHMOND, Virginia

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*The Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia,
are edited and published by authority of the Library Board
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THE original Journals of the House of Burgesses of *Virginia*, from *March 4th.* 1773, to *May 6th.* 1776, are bound in one volume, which bears the title "*Journal 1773 to 1776.*"

The publication of the Journal for the Session of 1773, was authorized on the 11th. of *March* of that year, when four hundred and fifty pounds was appropriated for general printing. Printed copies of this Journal are preserved in the Library of the *Massachusetts Historical Society*, and in the *Library of Congress*.

The Journal of 1774, was printed under the resolution of 1773, which set aside an additional four hundred and fifty pounds to be expended for printing during the following year. In the Report of the *American Historical Association* for 1897, this publication is noted as containing seventy-five pages. An imperfect copy of sixty pages, the last eight being mutilated, is in the *Library of Congress*.

Hening, in his Preface to the Eighth Volume of the Statutes, states that no Session was held in 1774. It is probable that he intended to convey the fact that no acts passed by the House of Burgesses became laws, owing to the sudden prorogation of that body, though the Session was of unusual length and prominence.

The Journal of 1775 was never printed in full, but an epitome of the Session was published under the following title:

"*The | Proceedings of the | House of Burgesses | of Virginia, | Convened in General Assembly, on Thursday, the first day of June 1775, | will fully appear in their Journals, printed at large; but as it was judged | necessary that the most material transactions should be seen in one connected | and distinct point of view, the House ordered that these should be published | in a pamphlet, and they are contained in the following sheets, | Williamsburg, | Printed by Alexander Purdie.*" | 48 pp.

Copies of this pamphlet are to be found in the *British Museum* and in the *Library of Congress*:

No Session of the Burgesses was held in 1776, though attempts were made on *Thursday* March 7th., and lastly on *May 6th.*, when the Journal reads: "Several Members met, but did neither proceed to business, nor adjourn, as the House of Burgesses: FINIS."

The Minutes and Papers of the *Committee of Correspondence*, from its formation to the birth of the *Committee of Safety*, when its labors ceased, are inserted in this volume after the Journal of each Session of the Assembly. The original Minutes are bound with the Journals of the Burgesses, and consist of eighteen pages of closely written matter, while the Papers, which consist largely of letters and resolutions received from other Colonies, were transcribed in a volume which was used for journal purposes in 1781, by the House of Delegates of *Virginia*. This volume bears two titles, viz: "*Journal 1781*" and "*Letters from April 1773 to May 1775*."

The existence of many rare and important papers, bearing directly upon the Journals of the House of Burgesses during *Dunmore's* Administration, add greatly to the interest in legislation of that period. The purpose therefore, has been to select those of unusual importance, including several original papers bearing on the *Committee of Correspondence* and contemporaneous enactments of the sister Colonies.

Early in 1773 *Robert Carter Nicholas*, Treasurer of the Colony, received for redemption, several notes which proved to be deceptive forgeries of various issues of *Virginia* currency. This discovery was immediately called to the attention of the public, in a lengthy notice published in the *Virginia Gazette* of February 4th, 1773:

Treasury Office, ¹ January 29, 1773.

"It is with infinite concern that I find there is immediate Occasion to caution the Publick against several very and ingenious and therefore the more dangerous Forgeries of many of the Five Pound Bills emitted in *November 1769* and *July 1771*.

From the peculiar Sort of Paper, on which these notes were impressed, the many different Devices and Checks with which they were guarded, it was hoped that they would baffle the Attempts of the most crafty and designing to counterfeit them. Suspicions it seems have been for some Time entertained in the upper Parts of the country, but it is only within these few Days the forgeries of the Emission of 1771, and not till this Morning those of 1769, have been detected and fixed upon with Certainty. Let it be remarked, that, in the genuine good Bills of both Emissions, the Ornaments, by some called the Entablatures, by others the Feathers, which are raised and partly turned over the Mens Heads in the Coats of Arms, are different as the original Devices are; the one is much broader than the other; the Point of the Halbert or Spear held by each of the Men in his left Hand runs up so high as to touch the broad Entablature, but in the Arms with the narrow Entablature the point of the Halbert falls considerably below it, so that this difference alone does not prove any of the Bills to be forged, as it is common to both Sorts. The five Pound Bills of both Emissions hitherto discovered to have been counterfeited have all the Coats of Arms with the broad Entablature or Feather, which with all the other Devices and Types very nearly resemble those of the genuine Bills. Some of the most apparent striking Differences in those dated 1771 are these: In the good Bills the *T W* in the white Water Letters under the Signers Names appear plainly, when held up to the Light, to be wrought in the Texture of the Paper itself; these Letters appear to sink equally both on the Faces and Backs of the Bills, and are equally transparent, whereas in the forged Bills they appear to sink into the Paper only on the Face of them, as if done with a stamp, after the Paper was made, and appear a little raised on the Backs of the Bills. In the good Bills the first double Stroke of the *W* wrought in the paper to the left Hand is wider where it joins the middle Stroke than it is at the Top; but in the Counterfeits these double Strokes are at equal Distances, and nearer each other. The Tops and Bottoms of the *T* and *W* stand exactly square and even with each other in the good Bills, but in the forged the right Hand Corner of the Top of the *T* is generally raised above the Top of the *W* and sinks a little to the left Hand. The Bars or white Water Strokes, observable in all Writing Paper, which runs down from the Tops to the Bottoms of these Bills, are a little more than the tenth Part of an inch wider from each other in the good than they are in the forged Bills. The Counterfeits of 1769 appear to have been made on a different Paper; they all have the broad Entablature of Feather; the Bars or white Water Strokes above described in these are near a quarter of an inch wider than in the true Bills. Nearly the same Remarks may be made of these in Respect to the *T W* as on the same Letters in the other Emission, both as to the double Strokes of the *W* and the Situation of both Letters in Relation to each other; but it is very observable that the left Corner of the *W* comes very near to the Bars or white Strokes running down the Bill in the Counterfeits, but in the genuine Bills the same Corner is at a greater Distance from the Bar or Water Stroke."

There

There are several other remarkable Differences in both Emissions, which cannot so well be described in Writing, but which many Gentlemen in different Parts of the Country are made well acquainted with.

I cannot too earnestly again recommend it to all Holders of the Paper Money not to suffer any Thing to be pasted on the Backs of the Bills; such as are pasted will not be received at the Treasury.

RO. C. NICHOLAS, *Treasurer.*

One week later the Significant mention in the *Virginia Gazette*¹ to the effect that it was generally believed that "expresses had been sent to the several members of *His Majesty's Council* requiring their attendance the following *Saturday*, in the Council Chamber," was accepted as indicating an early session of the Assembly. *Dunmore's* activity in apprehending the forgers however, produced a doubtful aspect, which *Campbell* later ascribed as more energetic than legal.

In view of this complex situation, the discretion exercised by the *Burgesses* was marked, not a single expression urging a meeting of the Assembly was made, on the contrary it was urged that "civil forces" were equal to the mastery of the problem:

"The Mercantile Body, we are well assured, have it much at Heart to contribute every Thing in their Power for the publick interest, and will use their best Endeavors in discovering the Circulation of this baneful Traffick."²

Oblivious to any design that may have existed to effect an understanding between the Colonies at the first possible opportunity, *Dunmore* issued a proclamation on the sixth of *February*, convening the Assembly of 1773:

A PROCLAMATION.

VIRGINIA, *to wit*

Whereas, the General Assembly stands prorogued to the first *Thursday* in *May*, next but it is judged expedient that the said Assembly should meet sooner, in order to deliberate on a matter I have to lay before them of great moment to the welfare of this Colony; I have therefore thought fit, by and with the consent and advice of his Majesty's Council, by this proclamation in his Majesty's name to appoint *Thursday* the fourth day of *March* next for that purpose; at which time the attendance of the General Assembly is accordingly requested at the Capitol, in the City of *Williamsburg*.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Colony at *Williamsburg* aforesaid, this sixth day of *February* 1773, and in the thirteenth Year of his Majesty's reign.

DUNMORE.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

In a letter to Lord² *Dartmouth* on this subject, *Dunmore* sets forth his reasons for calling the Assembly in a clear and concise manner:

"Williamsburg, 31st March, 1773.

My Lord,

It being discovered that the different emissions of the Paper money of this Colony were forged, and that in so masterly a manner, that it was extremely difficult for those the most knowing in these matters to distinguish the good from the bad, by which the credit of this paper currency was entirely lost; I did therefore with the advice of the Council, summon the Assembly to meet on the 4th instant, that they might fall upon such means as they thought best for re-establishing its credit, and

I

¹ *Virginia Gazette*, February 4, 1773.

² *Bancroft Transcripts*, 1752-1773—Library of Congress.

I herewith transmit to your Lord^p my speccch at the opening of the Session, and the addressees of the Council and House of Burgeesses, also the Acts and resolves passed in this short session, together with the minutes of Council and the Journals of the House of Burgeesses.

All the Acts passed this session are of a private nature, except the one Intituled: "An Act for the better securing of the public credit of this Colony."

My Lord,

Perhaps by taking my instructions in the most liberal sense, I may not have been empowered to pass any new Act for emitting paper money, yet as that Instruction empowers the Gov^r to pass an Act for emitting of ten thousand pounds, and M^r President Nelson, during his Administration passed an Act for emitting the sum of Thirty thousand pounds, which was approved by His Maj^{t_y}, all of which by Act of Assembly, are redeemable in the year 1775, I thought it not advisable to let them feel the weight of Govern^t too severely, by adhearing rigidly to the exact letter of the Instructions, at a time when I saw, that it must have greatly distressed their Trade, especially when I consider this not as a new emission of Paper Money, but the substituting good in the place of bad, for the same number of years, and the sum not so large by six-thousand pounds, under the same restrictions as the former, I mean as to its not being offered as a legal tender.

Your Lord^p will observe, there are some resolves w^{ch} show a little ill humour in the house of Burgeesses, but I thought them so insignificant that I took no matter of notice of them.

The House of Burgeesses in an Address to me, a copy of which I enclose to your Lord^p, seem at least obliquely in some degree to censure my conduct, in the mode of bringing to justice the forgers of their paper Money.

I would not, My Lord, willingly take up one moment of your time unnecessarily, but I am sure your Lord^p will forgive me, when you consider the apprehension (you will know) any one must have, who has the honor to serve the best of Sovereigns of appearing in any degree culpable in his eyes, I must therefore entreat your Lord^p's patience for a little, that I may lay the matter as briefly as I can before you, which I would offer in my own justification.

Your Lord^p must then know that I am here situated in a large Colony, without one single member of the Council to advise with on any emergency, there being only one within twelve miles, and the rest from that to two hundred miles distant. The Treasurer of this Colony having discovered, that a large quantity of counterfeit notes was in circulation, came and gave me regular information thereof, which was the ground I had for calling the Assembly. Sometime afterwards a person came down from one of the most remote counties in this Colony, who informed me upon oath of the Forgers of this Paper money, the person who made the paper and the Coiners of Pistoles, half Pistoles and Dollars, of which there are many base ones now in circulation; There were fifteen or sixteen persons concerned in this busines, some of them people of fortune and credit in the Country, and the Informer assured me if some method was not immediately fallen upon to bring them to justice, they would either form so considerable a Body in that remote part of the Country, that it would be extremely dangerous, and difficult to apprehend them, or that they would make their escape into some of the neighbouring provinces, so soon as they discovered he had left them, he having been in some degree an accomplice with them, as he says, that he might be the better able to get into all their plans, that the discovery he has made might be the more effectual. This being a crime of so dangerous a nature to the prosperity & commerce of this Country, I thought no exertion of Government should be wanting to bring such daring offenders to punishment, and having no Council, as I before observed to your Lord^p to advise with, and the least delay being dangerous, I sent for the three following gentlemen who reside here; viz^t M^r Peyton Randolph, his Maj^{t_y}'s late Attorney General for this Colony, and now Speaker of the House of Burgeesses, M^r John Randolph, His Maj^{t_y}'s

Maj^{ty}'s present Attorney General, and M^r Robert Carter Nicholas, Treasurer of the Colony, whose abilities as Lawyers and Men of integrity, are at least equal if not superior, to any three in the Colony. I laid this matter fully before them and beg'd they would advise me, what steps to take. They accordingly advised me to issue my warrant as Chief Justice for the apprehending them, and write to the Lieut^t of the County, the High Sheriff and several others whom they named to me, to use their best endeavours to have it executed, they likewise advised me to send one, or more of the most trusty and resolute Men I could find, to assist those Gentlemen, and direct them to procure strong Guard to be aiding in taking and bringing those offenders down immediately to be examined before the Court of this County, knowing how ineffectual it would have been to examine them in the County where they were taken, which is the usual mode; in short I followed their advice in every part of my conduct relative to this affair, and I have the pleasure to inform your Lord^p, that I have been so far successful, that with the assistance of the Gentlemen I wrote to in the County, the person I sent up, has apprehended and brought down the Engraver, Paper Maker, and printer of the paper money, also the coiner of the Pistoles and Dollars, with their Plates, Tools & implements of every kind, and a great quantity of the paper money ready for circulation; they have been examined by the Court of this County, who has ordered them to the public Gaol where they now lay for further trial at the ensuing General Court, and I can assure your Lord^p that there was but one person who has the least knowledge of the Laws of this Colony, and hardly a Man of sense in the House of Burgesses who did not approve of this mode of proceeding, although a majority were for the address, but whether I have done right in this, or in passing the Bill for emitting paper Money, or not taking any notice of their Resolves, I entirely submit to your Lord^p's better judgment, & I flatter myself, that neither His Maj^{ty}'s nor your Lord^p will, if I have done wrong (which I shall be entirely sorry for) impute it to any but the real cause, an error in judgement.

I am, My Lord,

your Lord^p's most obedient humble servant

DUNMORE.

Meeting on *March* the fourth, and rapidly enacting such legislation as was deemed sufficient to meet the question of re-establishing the public credit, the *Burgesses* proceeded to formulate the resolves creating a *Committee of Correspondence and Inquiry*.

Speaking of the origination and maturing of these resolves, that affected the Ministry more than any step taken by the Colonies since the resolutions against the Stamp Act, M^r Jefferson adds:¹

“Not thinking our old and leading members up to the point of forwardness and zeal which the times required, M^r Henry, Richard Henry Lee, Francis L. Lee, M^r Carr and myself agreed to meet in the evening in a private room of the Raleigh, to consult on the state of things. There may have been a member or two more whom I do not recollect. We were all sensible that the most urgent of all measures that of coming to an understanding with all the other colonies, to consider the British claims as a common cause to all, and to produce a unity of action; and for this purpose that a committee of correspondence in each colony would be the best instrument for intercommunication; and that their first measure would probably be, to propose a meeting of deputies from every colony, at some central place, who should be charged with the direction of the measures which should be taken by all. We therefore drew up the resolutions.

The

¹ Ford's Jefferson, vol. i, pp. 7, 8.

The consulting members proposed to me to move them, but I urged that it should be done by Mr Carr, my friend and brother in law, then a member, to whom I wished an opportunity should be given of making known to the house his great worth and talents. It was so agreed; he moved them; they were agreed to nem. con., and a committee of correspondence appointed, of whom *Peyton Randolph*, the speaker, was chairman."

Pursuant to caucus agreement, Mr Carr presented the resolutions as adopted, to the House of Burgesses on *March 12th*:

RESOLVES.¹

"Whereas, The minds of his Majesty's faithful subjects in this colony have been much disturbed, by various rumors and reports of proceedings tending to deprive them of their ancient, legal, and constitutional right,

"And whereas, The affairs of this Colony are frequently connected with those of *Great Britain*, as well as of the neighboring colonies, which renders a communication of sentiments necessary; in order, therefore, to remove the uneasiness, and to quiet the minds of the people, as well as for the other good purposes above mentioned,

"Be it resolved, That a standing Committee of Correspondence and Inquiry be appointed, to consist of eleven persons to wit: The Honorable *Peyton Randolph*, Esquire, *Robert Carter Nicholas*, *Richard Bland*, *Richard Henry Lee*, *Benjamin Harrison*, *Edmund Pendleton*, *Patrick Henry*, *Dudley Digges*, *Dabney Carr*, *Archibald Cary* and *Thomas Jefferson*, Esquires, any six of whom to be a committee, whose business it shall be to obtain the most early and authentic intelligence of all such acts and resolutions of the British Parliament, or proceedings of Administration, as may relate to or effect the British colonies in *America*, and to keep up and maintain a correspondence and communication with our sister colonies, respecting these important considerations; and the result of such their proceedings, from time to time, to lay before this House.

"Resolved, That it be an instruction to the said committee, that they do, without delay, inform themselves particularly of the principles and authority on which was constituted a court of inquiry, said to have been lately held in *Rhode Island*, with powers to transmit persons accused of offences committed in *America* to places beyond the seas to be tried."

"The said resolutions being severally read a second time, were, upon the question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the house, *nemine contradicente*.

"Resolved, That the *speaker* of this house do transmit to the *speakers* of the different Assemblies of the British colonies on the continent, copies of the said resolutions, and desire that they will lay them before their respective Assemblies, and request them to appoint some person or persons of their respective bodies, to communicate from time to time with the said committee."

Following the adoption of these resolves an address to the Governor, disapproving his conduct in the irregular trial of the *Pittsylvania* prisoners, was read and adopted. On *March 15th* this protest,² delivered in the presence of the Assembly, elicited from the Governor a rude answer, resulting in the prorogation of that body after a short session of eleven days. The following day the *Committee of Correspondence* prepared a circular letter to the Assemblies of other Colonies, directing particular attention to an enclosed copy of the *Virginia* resolutions, and inviting opinions thereon at the earliest possible moment. The formation of similar Committees by various Colonies, followed at short intervals, each meriting the distinctive prominence accorded it in the annals of political events that have affected history.

From

¹ Adopted March 12, 1773.

² Address, p. 22.

From the close of the Session of 1773, to the issuance of the proclamation convening the Assembly of the following year, *England* and the Colonies witnessed many important events. The *East India Company*, with its vast accumulation of seventeen million pounds of Tea, being unwilling to accept Lord *North*'s proposal that the duties should be paid in Colonial ports, argued that such a proposition would not result in revenue to the Crown, but that an equivalent duty should be retained in *England*. This argument, which was presented in the form of a petition, was not acceptable to the Ministry, who believed that the Colonies would buy of the *Company*, under any circumstances, and that a repeal of duty at that time, would show a reluctance on the part of the Crown to exercise the right of taxation.

Suspecting, after lengthy deliberation, that their interests were being exploited to establish an American duty, the *East India Company* determined to consign cargoes of Tea to *Boston*, *New York*, *Philadelphia* and *Charleston*. This decision, following legislation bearing on the same subject, aroused great excitement throughout the Colonies. The *Americans* were as equally determined not to pay the tax, as was *Great Britain* to collect it, the various Committees of Correspondence uniting them in their measures of resistance.

In this great crisis all eyes were directed to the ports to which the Tea had been consigned. Public meetings were held at each place, and resolutions, either demanding of consignees the resignation of their commissions, or prohibiting the landing of Tea, were passed and carried into effect. As one result of this action on the part of the Colonies the Port of *Boston* was ordered to be closed on *June 1st*. 1774, and not to be again opened until the acts of Parliament were obeyed.

Virginia's attitude, like that of her sister Colonies, was a tribute to their firmness. Internal affairs abated in no way the interest in general Colonial welfare aroused by the various Committees of Correspondence, as is attested by an *association*¹ signed by eighty nine members of the House of Burgesses, in session in the old *Raleigh Tavern* in *Williamsburg*, on *May 27th*, 1774:

We his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the late representatives of the good people of this country, having been deprived by the sudden interposition of the executive part of this government, from giving our countrymen the advice we wished to convey to them in a legislative capacity, find ourselves under the hard necessity of adopting this, the only method we have left, of pointing out to our countrymen such measures as in our opinion are best fitted to secure our dearest rights and liberty from destruction, by the heavy hand of power now lifted against *North America*: With much grief we find that our dutiful applications to *Great Britain* for security of our ancient, and constitutional rights, have been not only disregarded, but that a determined system is formed and pressed for reducing the inhabitants of *British America* to slavery by subjecting them to the payment of taxes, imposed without the consent of the people or their representatives; and that in pursuit of this system, we find an act of the British parliament, lately passed, for stopping the harbour and commerce of the town of *Boston*, in our sister colony of *Massachusetts Bay*, until the people there submit to the payment of such unconstitutional taxes, and which act most violently and arbitrarily deprives them of their property, in wharfs erected by private persons, at their own great and proper expense, which act is, in our opinion, a most dangerous attempt to destroy the constitutional liberty and rights of all *North America*. It is further our opinion, that as Tea, on its importation into *America*, is charged with a duty imposed by parliament for the purpose of raising a revenue, without the consent of the people, it ought not to be used by any person who wishes well to the constitutional rights and liberty of *British America*. And whereas the *India Company* have ungenerously attempted the ruin of *America*, by sending many ships loaded with tea into the colonies, thereby intending to fix a precedent in favor of arbitrary

¹ Broadside, in Library of Congress.

trary taxation, we deem it highly proper, and do accordingly recommend it strongly to our countrymen, not to purchase or use any kind of *East India* commodity whatsoever, except saltpetre and spices, until the grievances of *America* are redressed. We are further clearly of opinion, that an attack, made on one of our sister colonies, to compel submission to arbitrary taxes, is an attack made on all British America, and threatens ruin to the rights of all, unless the united wisdom of the whole be applied. And for this purpose it is recommended to the Committee of Correspondence, that they communicate, with their several corresponding committees, on the expediency of appointing deputies from the several colonies of British America, to meet in general congress, at such place annually as shall be thought most convenient; there to deliberate on those general measures which the united interests of *America* may from time to time require.

A tender regard for the interest of our fellow subjects, the merchants, and manufacturers of *Great Britain*, prevents us from going further at this time; most earnestly hoping, that the unconstitutional principle of taxing the Colonies without their consent will not be persisted in, thereby to compel us against our will, to avoid all commercial intercourse with *Britain*. Wishing them and our people free and happy, we are their affectionate friends, the late representatives of *Virginia*.

The 27th. of May, 1774.

Peyton Randolph, Ro. C. Nicholas, Richard Bland, Edmund Pendleton, Richard Henry Lee, Archibald Cary, Benjamin Harrison, George Washington, William Harwood, Robert Wormley Carter, Robert Munford, Thomas Jefferson, John West, Mann Page, junior, John Syme, Peter Le Grand, Joseph Hutchings, Francis Peyton, Richard Adams, B. Dandridge, Henry Pendleton, Patrick Henry, junior, Richard Mitchell, James Holt, Charles Carter, James Scott, Burwell Bassett, Henry Lee, John Burton, Thomas Whiting, Peter Poythress, John Winn, James Wood, William Cabell, David Mason, Joseph Cabell, John Bowyer, Charles Linch, William Aylett, Isaac Zane, Francis Slaughter, William Langhorne, Henry Taylor, James Montague, William Fleming, Rodham Kenner, William Acriill, Charles Carter, of Stafford, John Woodson, Nathaniel Terry, Richard Lee, Henry Field, Matthew Marable, Thomas Pettus, Robert Rutherford, Samuel M'Dowell, John Bowdoin, James Edmondson, Southey Simpson, John Walker, Hugh Innes, Henry Bell, Nicholas Faulcon, junior, James Taylor, junior, Lewis Burwell, of Gloucester, W. Roane, Joseph Nevil, Richard Hardy, Edwin Gray, H. King, Samuel DuVal, John Hite, junior, John Banister, Worlich Westwood, John Donelson, Thomas Newton, junior, P. Carrington, James Speed, James Henry, Champion Travis, Isaac Coles, Edmund Berkeley, Charles May, Thomas Johnson, Benjamin Watkins, Francis Lightfoot Lee, John Talbot, Thomas Nelson, junior, Lewis Burwell.

We the subscribers, clergymen and other inhabitants of the colony and dominion of *Virginia*, having maturely considered the contents of the above association, do most cordially approve and accede thereto.

William Harrison, William Hubard, Benjamin Blagrove, William Bland, H. J. Burges, Samuel Smith M'Crosky, Joseph Davenport, Thomas Price, David Griffith, William Leigh, Robert Andrews, Samuel Klug, Ichabod Camp, William Clayton, Richard Cary, Thomas Adams, Hinde Russell, William Holt, Arthur Dickenson, Thomas Stuart, James Innes.

(Endorsed by *Thomas Jefferson, Thos Mann Randolph.*)

In the meanwhile, after several prorogations, *Dunmore* issued on October 19th. a proclamation convening the Assembly of 1774. Some doubt as to his sincerity, however, caused *John Blair*, clerk of the Council, to issue a notice¹ on April 21st, in which he "assured the publick," that the day appointed for that purpose would not be changed.

"By

¹ *Virginia Gazette* April 28, 1774.

"By his EXCELLENCE, the right honorable JOHN Earl of DUNMORE, his Majesty's Lieutenant and Governour General of the Colony and Dominion of VIRGINIA, and Vice Admiral of the same:

A PROCLAMATION.

VIRGINIA, sc.

Whereas, the general assembly stands prorogued to the second *Thursday* in the next month, but I find no urgent occasion for their meeting at that time; I have therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of his Majesty's Council, by this proclamation in his Majesty's name, farther to prorogue the said assembly to the first *Thursday* in *May* next, at which time I require their attendance at the Capitol, in the city of *Williamsburg*, for the dispatch of public business.

Given under my hand, and the seal of the Colony, at *Williamsburg* aforesaid, this 19th day of *October*, 1773, and in the 13th year of his Majesty's reign.

DUNMORE.

GOD SAVE THE KING."

In his address to the *Burgeses*, on the morning of *May 6th*, *Dunmore* maintained that he had "nothing to require of them," and made no allusion to the various *Indian* troubles, or the dispute between *Pennsylvania* and *Virginia*, over the territory near the junction of the *Allegheny* and *Monongahela* rivers.

Proceeding with ordinary business, and hoping to reserve notice of the "Tea Act" until a dissolution of the Assembly was a matter of little concern, the *Burgeses* hastened to enact such measures as demanded immediate attention. Before this purpose had been fully accomplished however, news of the "*Boston Port Bill*" arrived, and it was determined to take formal notice of it at once. Speaking of this action *M^r Jefferson*, in his memoir says:¹

"The lead in the House, on these subjects, being no longer left to the old members, *M^r Henry, R. H. Lee, Fr. L. Lee*, three or four other members, whom I do not recollect, and myself, agreeing that we must boldly take an unequivocal stand in the line with *Massachusetts*, determined to meet and consult on the proper measures, in the Council Chamber, for the benefit of the library in that room. We were under conviction of the necessity of arousing our people from the lethargy into which they had fallen, as to passing events; and thought that the appointment of a day of general fasting and prayer, would be most likely to call up and alarm their attention. No example of such a solemnity had existed since the days of our distresses in the war of '55, since which a new generation had grown up. With the help, therefore, of *Rushworth*,² whom we rummaged over for the revolutionary precedents and forms of the Puritans of that day, preserved by him, we cooked up a resolution,³ somewhat modernizing their phrases, for appointing the first day of *June*, on which the *Port Bill* was to commence, for a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, to implore Heaven to avert from us the evils of civil war, to inspire us with firmness in support of our rights, and to turn the hearts of the King and Parliament to moderation and justice. To give greater emphasis to our proposition, we agreed to wait the next morning on *M^r Nicholas*, whose grave and religious character was more in unison with the tone of our resolution, and to solicit him to move it. We accordingly went to him in the morning. He moved it the same day; the first of *June* was proposed, and it passed without opposition."

On *Tuesday May 24th*, *R. C. Nicholas* presented the resolve, which was adopted, and by order of the Assembly, printed in the *Gazette* of *May 26th*. The same day the *Governor*, upon having his attention directed to the publication, ordered the *Burgeses* to attend him in the Council Chamber, when he addressed them as follows:

M^r¹ Washington's Jefferson, vol. i, pp. 6, 7.² Rushworth's Historical Collections, 8 vols., 1721.³ *Ibid.*, iv, 494.

"*M^r Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses:*

"*I have in my hand a paper published by order of your House, conceived in such terms as reflects highly upon his Majesty, and the Parliament of Great Britain, which makes it necessary for me to dissolve you; and you are dissolved accordingly.*"

The Excitement Produced by the "*Boston Port Bill*," intensified by penal measures adopted by *Parliament*, was very great. Such acts as were passed for regulating the Government of *Massachusetts Bay*; quartering troops in any colony, and an extension of *Canadian* authority over the region lying between the *Ohio* and *Mississippi* Rivers, in which the inhabitants of that section were denied the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*, and all share in the administration of government, were construed as cruel measures of intimidation. This purpose created a united resistance, which found its strength in the plan adopted by the colonies in general for a Colonial Congress. Freeholders in every county in the Colony elected delegates to the *Williamsburg* convention, which in turn appointed delegates to meet those of the Colonies in general session.

In the mean time, *Dunmore* having issued writs for the election of a new Assembly to meet on *August 7th*, and finding the old members returned, he had prorogued them to the first *Thursday in November*, repeating the prorogations until *May 26th*. 1775, when the Assembly of *June 1st*. of that year was proclaimed.

During the spring preceding this session of the Burgesses, *Williamsburg* witnessed many conditions, incident to strife and disaffection. With a population estimated to be two thousand¹, many being uncertain as to course and affiliations, it was considered essential to success that secrecy of purpose be maintained. Secret meetings were held in the *Raleigh Tavern* and other places, and such matters as demanded resolute action were entrusted to a coterie of Burgesses known to be in sympathy with the cause of liberty. Fearing the resolution passed to raise a body of armed men, as indicating revolt, *Dunmore* ordered fifteen barrels of gun powder then in the Magazine, to be removed to *H. M. S. Fowey*, lying off *York*. This secret proceeding called forth a vigorous objection on the part of the Burgesses, who appointed a committee to present an address to the Governor and ascertain his reasons for such an action.

Attempting to allay public indignation, then very high throughout the Colony, the Governor maintained that the Magazine was insecure, promising to return the powder as soon as the building was placed in good repair. This, with other reasons he embodied in a proclamation to *Virginia*, on the 3rd. of *May* following:

A PROCLAMATION²

VIRGINIA, to wit

Whereas, there is so much reason to suppose that some persons, in the different parts of this colony, are disaffected to his Majesty's government, and by their weight and credit with the people are endeavoring to bring the country into such a situation as to afford them the fairest prospect of effecting a change in the form of it, covering their wicked designs under the specious appearance of defending their liberties, and have taken advantage of the unhappy ferment, which themselves have raised in the minds of their fellow subjects, in prosecution of their dangerous designs to oppose the most undoubted prerogative of the King, which in a late instance I thought it expedient to exert by removing on board his Majesty's ship the *Fowey*, a small quantity of gun powder, belonging to his Majesty's, from the magazine in this city; I have thought fit, by advice of his Majesty's council, to issue this my proclamation, with a view of undeceiving the deluded, and of exposing to the unwary the destruction into which they may be precipitated, if they suffer themselves to be longer guided by such infatuated counsels.

Although

¹ *Dunmore to Dartmouth, March 18, 1774.*

² *Virginia Gazette, May 6, 1775.*

Although I consider myself, under the authority of the crown, the only constitutional judge, in what manner the munition, provided for the protection of the people of this government, is to be disposed of for that end; yet for effecting the salutary objects of this proclamation, and removing from the minds of his Majesty's subjects the groundless suspicions they have imbibed, I think proper to declare that the apprehensions which seemed to prevail throughout this whole country of an intended insurrection of the slaves, who had been seen in large numbers, in the night time, about the magazine, and my knowledge of its being a very insecure depositary, were my inducements to that measure, and I chose the night as the properst season, because I knew the temper of the times, and the misinterpretations of my design which would be apt to prevail if the thing should be known. Acting under these motives, I certainly rather deserved the thanks of the country than their reproaches. But, whenever the present ferment shall subside, and it shall become necessary to put arms into the hands of the militia, for the defence of the people against a foreign enemy or intestine insurgents, I shall be as ready as on a late occasion to exert my best abilities in the service of the country. In the mean time, as it is indispensably necessary to maintain order and the authority of the laws, and thereby the dignity of his Majesty's government, I exhort and require, in his Majesty's name, all his faithful subjects, to leave no expedient untried which may tend to that happy end. Such as are not to be influenced by the love of order for its own sake, and the blessings it is always productive of, would do well to consider the internal weakness of this colony, as well as the dangers to which it is exposed from a savage enemy; who, from the most recent advices I have received from the frontier inhabitants, are ready to renew their hostilities against the people of this country. But, as on the one hand, nothing can justify men, without proper authority, in a rapid recurrence to arms, nothing excuse resistance to the executive power in the due enforcement of law, so on the other, nothing but such resistance and outrageous proceedings shall ever compel me to avail myself of any means that may carry the appearance of severity.

Anxious to restore peace and harmony to this distracted country, and to induce a firmer reliance on the goodness and tenderness of our most gracious Sovereign to all his subjects equally, and on the wisdom of his councils for a redress of all their real grievances, which can only be obtained by loyal and constitutional applications, I again call upon and require all his Majesty's liege subjects, and especially all magistrates and other officers, both civil and military, to exert themselves in removing the discontents, and suppressing the spirit of faction, which prevail among the people, that a dutiful submission to the laws of the land may be strictly observed, which shall ever be the rule of my conduct, as the interest and happiness of this dominion ever have been, and shall continue to be, the objects of my administration.

Given under my hand and the seal of the colony, at *Williamsburg*, this 3rd day of *May*, 1775, and in the 15th year of his Majesty's reign.

DUNMORE.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Two days prior to issuing this proclamation, *Dunmore* gave his true reasons for removing the powder in a letter to *Lord Dartmouth*, Secretary of State:

"Williamsburg, 1st May, 1775.

My Lord,

The series of dangerous measures pursued by the people of this Colony against Govern^t, which they have now entirely overturned, and particularly their having come

come to a resolution of raising a body of armed Men in all the counties, made me think it prudent to remove some Gunpowder which was in a Magazine in this place, where it lay exposed to any attempt that might be made to seize it, and I had reason to believe the people intended to take that step. I accordingly requested of Lieut^t Collins, commanding his Maj^{ys} armed schooner the Magdalen, to convey the powder on board the Fowey, Man-of-war now on this station, wh^{ch} that officer with a party of his Scamen diligently executed; but tho' it was intended to have been done privately, Mr Collins and his party were observed, and notice was given immediately to the Inhabitants of this place; Drums were then sent thro' the City—The independent company got under Arms. All the People were assembled, and during their consultation, continual threats were brought to my house, that it was their resolution to seize upon, or massacre me, and every person found giving me assistance if I refused to deliver the Powder immediately into their custody.

In a short time the Mayor and Corporation came to my house, leaving their armed force at a little distance, with an address in reality milder in terms, than I expected, but still from the manner in which it was presented can be deemed, if not a treasonable proceeding at least nothing less than one of the highest insults, that could be offered to the authority of his Maj^{ys} Govern^t. The Address represents the alarm into which the people had been thrown at the taking away the powder in a private manner by an armed force, particularly at a time when they are apprehensive of Insurrection among their slaves (some reports having prevailed to this effect) and concludes with a request amounting to a peremptory demand, that the powder be delivered up immediately to them. I thought proper in the defenceless state in which I find myself, to endeavor to soothe them, and answered verbally to the effect, that I had removed the powder lest the Negroes might have seized upon it, to a place of security, from whence, when I saw occasion I would at any time, deliver it to the people. But in the ferment in which they then appeared it would be highly improper to put it into their hands, as it would be inconsistent with the Authority I represented to comply with any demand made in the manner of the present. This did not satisfy them, and the fury of the People was still represented as uncontrollable and the dreadful consequences of it, as not to be averted by any other means, than complying with their humour, to which I replied only by declaring, that I would never depart from the resolution which I had already signified to them, I had taken, and by arming myself and the persons of my family to oppose the threatened attempts. Their happened to be then in Town Capt^r Montagu, commanding the Fowey, with his Capt^r of Marines a Mr Stretch and Lieut^t Henry Collins officer already mentioned. These gentlemen immediately joined themselves to my little party, and offered me all their assistance which could be spared from on board the ship and schooner wh^{ch} only amounts to between 30 and 40 Men.

I was not long after unexpectedly informed, the people by the persuasion of Mr Peyton Randolph & Mr Nicholas the Treasurer, had dispersed and appeared satisfied with the answer which I had returned; but parties of armed Men were continually coming into town from the adjacent Counties the following days, offering fresh insults; and two days ago, three Gentlemen of principal families in the Country, arrived deputed, as they declared, from a body of 2000 armed Men, who were collected in the neighbourhood of Fredericksburg, about 100 miles from this place, and who only waited to be informed by these Messengers, that I would deliver up the powder, as they were determined otherwise to proceed to Williamsburg and assault my house, and spare neither me, nor any person adhering to me.

The Messengers, as they were informed the powder would not be given up, returned vowing vengeance of their enraged Confederates against me, and I am consequently in hourly expectation of their appearance.

Some of the families have removed from here to avoid the scene that is expected. I have been obliged to send Lady Dunmore and my children on Board the Man-of-war,

of-war, and I shall remain here until I am forced out—But as I cannot expect to make any effectual resistance in this place against the numbers that are said to be moving against me, I intend to retire towards the Town of York, where the Man-of-war a 20 gun ship and an armed schooner lie, under the protection of the guns of which, and under cover of a little entrenchment which I shall throw up, or at worst on Board the Man-of-War, I shall wait for his Maj^t’s orders, and I have already signified to the Magistrates of Williamsburg, that I expect them on their allegiance to fall upon means of putting a stop to the March of the People now on their way, before they enter this City, that otherwise, I shall be forced, and it is my fixed purpose, to arm all my own negroes, & receive all others that will come to me, whom I shall declare free. That I do enjoin the Magistrates and all others, professing to be loyal subjects, to repair to my assistance, or that I shall consider the whole country in an Actual State of Rebellion, and myself at liberty to annoy it by every possible means, and that I shall not hesitate at reducing their houses to Ashes, and spreading devastation wherever I can reach. I have likewise summoned the Council to attend me about the time which these insurgents are expected here;

I have dispatched a small vessel to Boston to General Gage and Adm^r Graves, requesting of the one a small body of Men, and of the other one of the large ships under his command. The appearance of such a ship in the interior parts of this Country, where the great depth of water in the Rivers here will permit it to go, would strike the greatest awe, and if I obtain 2 or 300 Men, who might be entrenched under the protection of the guns of such a Man of War, they would there (tho’ I should receive no assistance from among the people here) at least until I can receive His Maj^t’s orders to regulate my future conduct, protect me and those officers of Govern^t who would choose to attend me, and I have reason to believe, this would be sufficient to determine many persons to join me, who hitherto from the terror spread by the Committees and other disturbers of Govern^t have been deterred from ever declaring their sentiments.

Whatever may be the issue of this present Insurrection in this Colony, or whether the People will now proceed or not to the atrocious extremities, which they have been hardy enough to avow their intentions of committing. Their conduct has already afforded sufficient evidence of the rebellious spirit with which they are possessed, and therefore if His Maj^t’s thinks it necessary to maintain an appearance of authority in this Colony during the unhappy struggle between America and Great Britain, it cannot be effected without a force to support it, which I am in hopes His Maj^t’s will judge requisite to send me, that, I may be enabled to protect myself and the other faithful Officers and friends of Govern^t, who knowing themselves in security will, I am persuaded, exert their utmost efforts, in the service of His Maj^t’s. Every person who has manifested the least partiality to the King’s Govern^t, are now become suspected by their furious Countrymen, and are in the greatest danger of falling victims to the rage and violence which accompany all the transactions of these people pretending to contend for Liberty.

If the servants of the Crown should be of opinion, that the authority of Govern^t ought to be enforced here, I am persuaded, that if His Majesty should think proper to add to a small body of Troops to be sent here, a quantity of Arms, Ammunition and other requisites for the service, I could raise such a Force from among Indians, Negroes and other persons, as would soon reduce the refractory people of this Colony to obedience.

I am etc.,

DUNMORE.”

In the preparation of his proclamation to Virginia, Lord Dunmore was no doubt influenced by the appearance of a Broadside¹ issued in Williamsburg, Saturday, April 29th, which apprised Virginians of the Battle of Lexington:

“Williamsburg,

¹ In Library of Congress.

"Williamsburg, Saturday, April 29, 1775.

Late last night an express arrived from *Philadelphia*, with the following melancholy advices from the province of *Connecticut*, forwarded to the Committee of Correspondence in this city.

The blow (so much dreaded by our noble friend *Lord Chatham*) is now struck, a great deal of blood spilt, and much more, it is likely, than the present advices communicate. That great man, in his speech upon the necessity of withdrawing the troops from *Boston* (delivered in the House of Lords the 20th of *January* last) says: "Perhaps, even whilst I am now" speaking, the decisive blow is struck, which may involve millions in the consequences, and, believe me, the very first drop of blood that is spilled will not be a wound easily skinned over; it will be irritable *vulnus*, a wound of that rancorous festering kind, that, in all probability, will mortify the whole body!"

Philadelphia, April 24, 1775.

An express arrived at five o'clock this evening, by which we have the following advices, *viz.*

Watertown, Wednesday morning, near 10 o'clock.

TO ALL FRIENDS OF AMERICAN LIBERTY.

Be it known, that this morning, before break of day, a brigade, consisting of about 1000 or 1200 men, landed at *Phipps* farm, at *Cambridge*, and marched to *Lexington*, where they found a company of our colony militia in arms, upon whom they fired, without any provocation, and killed six men, and wounded four others. By an express from *Boston*, we find another brigade is now on its march from *Boston*, supposed to consist of 1000 men. The bearer, *Rial Briffet*, is charged to alarm the country, quite to *Connecticut*; and all persons are desired to furnish him with fresh horses, as they may be needed. I have spoken with several, who have seen the dead and wounded. Pray let the Delegates from this colony to *Connecticut* see this; they know Col. *Foster*, one of the Delegates.

J. PALMER, one of the committee.

A true copy from the original, by order of the Committee of Correspondence of *Worcester*, April 1775.

Attested and forwarded by the committees of *Brookline*, *Norwich*, *New London*, *Lyme*, *Saybrook*, *Killingsworth*, *E. Guilford*, *Guilford*, *Brandford*, *Newhaven*.

Fairfield, Saturday, April 22, 8 o'clock.

Since the above written we have received the following, by a second express

Thursday, 3 o'clock after noon.

Sir.

I am this moment informed, by an express from Woodstock, taken from the mouth of the express at two of the clock after noon, that the contest between the first brigade that marched to Concord was still continuing this morning at the town of Lexington, to which said brigade had retreated; that another brigade, said to be the second mentioned in the letter of this morning, had landed with a quantity of artillery at the place where the first did. The Provincials were determined to prevent the two brigades from joining their strength, if possible, and remain in great need of succour.

N. B. *The Regulars when in Concord, burnt the court house, took two pieces of cannon, which they rendered useless, and began to take up Concord bridge; on which Capt. —— (who, with many on both sides, were soon killed) made an attack upon the King's troops, on which they retreated to Lexington.*

I am, &c.

E. B. WILLIAMS.

To Col. *O. B. Johnson*, *Canterbury*.

P. C.

P. C.

Mr M'Farlane of Plainfield, merchant, has just returned from Boston, by way of Providence, who conversed with an express from Lexington, who farther informs, that 4000 of our troops had surrounded the first brigade above mentioned, who were on a hill in Lexington; that the action continued, and there were about 50 of our men killed, and 150 of the Regulars, as near as they could determine, when the express came away. It will be expedient for every man to go who is fit and willing.

The above is a true copy, as received by express from Newhaven, and attested by the committee of correspondence from town to town.

Attest, JONATHAN STURGIS,
 ANDREW ROWLAND,
 THADDIUS BURR, Committee.
 JOB BARTRAM.

The above was received yesterday at 4 o'clock by the committee of New York, and forwarded to Philadelphia by Isaac Low, chairman of the committee at New York.

This morning the Committee of Correspondence met, and have determined to send express to the southward.—It is now full time for us all to be on our guard, and to prepare ourselves against any contingency. The sword is now drawn, and God knows when it will be sheathed.

Meeting on June the 1st, the *Burgesses* exchanged communications with the *Governor*, that concealed in no way the mutual dislike and lack of confidence that existed between them.

Being assembled in accordance with the order of the Ministry, to consider Lord North's proposals, to which they ably replied, it was determined to investigate the Executive's administration of the Colony's affairs. A committee was appointed to inspect the Public Magazine, and a request for information concerning the number of Militia that had been called into service, the expense incurred thereby, and the duty performed by them since the *Indian* expedition was made. Replying to the request concerning this expedition on Monday, June 5th., the *Governor* stated, that exact returns had not been furnished him, and referred the *Burgesses* to the several Lieutenants commanding the various corps for such information as they required.

The following Wednesday, Dunmore removed with his family to the *Fowey*, then lying off York, giving as his reason for this course that he believed his family were in danger of bodily harm, and were no longer safe in *Williamsburg*. It was evident from his fortifying the "Mansion" nearly a month before, and from his communication to Lord Dartmouth,¹ bearing date May 15th., that he had not felt secure since the announcement of Patrick Henry's presence near the Capitol, at the head of the *Virginia* Militia, at which time Richard Corbin, his Majesty's Receiver-General, was compelled to pay £330, as a compensation for the powder removed by the Executive's order:

My Lord,

The commotion in this Colony, of the cause of wh^{ch} I gave your Lord^p an account in my letter No. 26, dated the 1st of May, has obliged me to shut myself in, & make a garrison of my house, expecting every moment to be attacked. There is scarce a County of the whole Colony wherein part of the people have not taken up arms and declared their intention of forcing me to make restitution of the Powder; bodies of different numbers have been in motion in all parts of the Colony, who have been only dissuaded from pursuing their attempts, by the interposition of some less violent people, and compelled to lay down their arms and atone for their offences by the Justice of the Country or the support due from subjects to their lawful Government.

A

¹ Bancroft Transcripts, 1768-1776, No. 27—Library of Congress.

A party headed by a certain Patrick Henry, one of the Delegates of this Colony, a man of desperate circumstances, and one who has been very active in encouraging disobedience and exciting a spirit of Revolt among the People for many years past, advanced to within a few miles of this place, and there encamped with all the appearance of actual War, stopping and detaining every passenger on the road coming this way for fear of my obtaining intelligence of their motions; Henry, their leader dispatching letters all over the County to excite the People to join him, and he sent one particularly to direct that the People of the County of York should prevent, at all events, any succour being sent to me from the Man of War lying at York or my retreat to the Man of War.

While they were in this position, they found means, by threatening the person, family and property of his Maj^tys Receiver General, M^r Corbin, to extort the sum of 330 pounds from him, which they thought to demand out of the King's Revenue to replace the Powder which I had removed out of the Magazine; having obtained this, they have declared themselves satisfied and justice done to the Country for the insult I had committed, and have returned triumphantly, to their respective habitations.

This proceeding has been undertaken pursuant to the Laws established by the General Congress, wherein the people are directed to make reprisals on the persons and effects of the Officers of Govern^t for any damage done in consequence of the execution of their duty; according to the principle of which, if any lives of Americans are lost, or their persons seized, in the course of these unhappy divisions, the same is to be retaliated upon the officers of Govern^t wherever they are to be found; and if, after the extraordinary Zeal with which the People of this Colony manifest their approbation of, and their resolution to give support to the Congress, there were still a doubt that they could be capable of perpetrating Acts of that nature, the proceeding, which I report to your Lord^p would, I imagine, remove it, and the seizing of me and my family as hostages to answer for any consequences that may ensue from the contest with Great Britain, particularly since the Newspapers have brought accounts that many of the Ringleaders of the outrages in America were ordered to be apprehended, has been the current report of the Country, and I am of opinion that the danger of the undertaking, little as that was, more than a fence of duty deterred the insurgents from executing that project on this occasion; for your Lord^p further information, and to show I have made no exaggerated report of the conduct of the people in this affair, I transmit the accounts as they are published by themselves in their Newspapers (Marked A) from whence it appears that far from endeavoring to extenuate, they applaud one another for, and glory in their attempts.

I transmit to your Lord^p two proclamations w^{ch} I have issued on this occasion, the first of which I thought proper to publish together with the minute of Council, in hopes the names of the Gentlemen who advised it, from their credit with the people, might induce those who have joined in such dangerous measures from ignorance, to pay the greater attention to the warning it contained; and in order that it might afford the strongest evidence possible to His Maj^ty and the Parliament, if he should think proper to lay it before them, of the lengths to which the People of this Colony are proceeding, who have left nothing now remaining to be done, in order totally to overturn his Maj^tys Govern^t but the laying violent hands upon his Governor, and the Country being every where arming and disciplining Men, even in the place where I live drums are beating, and Men in uniform dresses with arms are continually in the streets, which my authority is no longer able to prevent, your Lord^p will I hope see the necessity of sending me Instructions upon the occasion, & of putting me in a situation of safety.

Your Lord^ps dispatches of the 3rd of March are just come to hand, in consequence of which I have called the Assembly, to meet on Thursday the 1st of June.

The

The just and equitable expectations of the Govrn^t and Parliament of Great Britain, from so fair an opening for a reconciliation, as is presented to the Americans by the resolution of the House of Commons, could not be Disappointed, if the People of this Country were still under the influence of reason, or had not already thrown off every inclination to an accommodation of differences; it is no longer to be doubted, that Independence is the object in view, and I am of opinion, that no warning will deter, nor offers divert them from making every attempt their leaders advise to establish it.

It is a considerale time that intimation has arrived here of the favorable disposition of Parliam^t exactly as it is now transmitted by your Lord^p; but it seems, hitherto rather to have urged the people to hurry on to extremities; the foregoing part of this letter is a proof of what I alledge, as Lord North's Plan, as it has been called, was known before the transactions therein related took place. The Newspapers have already begun to prejudice the people against it, and to call it only a Ministerial device to divide the Colonies, and it is insisted that no Negociation be entered upon, without the repeal of all the Acts complained of, as a preliminary; I therefore must inform your Lord^p, that I have little or no good expectations from the resolutions of the approaching Assembly of Virginia, the violence of the temper of which has already been so publicly manifested; but your Lord^p may be assured, I shall exert my best abilities, and spare no pains or labor to accomplish a work of such great and national importance, in which I shall be warmly seconded by the most part of his Majesty's Council. I am, My Lord,

Your Lord^p's most obedient humble servant.

DUNMORE."

Soon after this negotiations ceased between *Dunmore* and the Assembly, and it became necessary to resort to means that would give effect to important measures that had already been sanctioned by the Council. It was maintained that the Executive of that Body, in the absence of the Governor, was legally qualified to discharge such duties as were vested in the King's representative, the Council later acceding to this in obedience to necessity and the wishes of the people.

Under this form of administration the period of interregnum was governed until *July, 1775*, when the *Richmond Convention*, organized a provisional form of government, with legislative functions, to be assisted by the *Committee of Safety*, whose province maintained jurisdiction over all matters concerning the protection of the Colonies. The duties of the House of Burgesses therefore were at an end, but as it was not the custom to adjourn *fine die, Thursday, October 12th*, was agreed upon as the day for re-assembling. On this day, no quorum being present, the date was changed to *March 7th, 1776*, and again to *Monday, May 6th*, when "several members met, but did neither proceed to business, nor adjourn, as the House of Burgesses."

So ended one of the most historic legislative bodies ever enacting laws in America. Representative of the people, its voice was ever raised in behalf of popular interest; acting upon the principle of equality, and never doubting the validity of its purpose, it established faith in mankind for self government, that conditions have proven worthy of example and monumental in design.

JOHN PENDLETON KENNEDY.

Richmond, July, 1905.

JOURNAL

of the

HOUSE OF BURGESSES

1773

B u r g e f f e s .

Accomac	James Henry Southey Simpson	Fauquier	*Thomas Marshall *James Scott
Albemarle	Thomas Jefferson John Walker	Fincastle	William Christian *Robert Doak
Amelia	*John Tabb *John Winn	Frederick	*James Wood *Isaac Zane
Amherst	*Joseph Cabell *William Cabell, Jr.	Gloucester	Lewis Burwell Thomas Whiting
Augusta	Charles Lewis *Samuel McDowell	Goochland	Thomas Mann Randolph John Woodson
Bedford	*Charles Lynch *John Talbot	Halifax	*Isaac Coles Nathaniel Terry
Berkeley	*Thomas Hite Robert Rutherford	Hampshire	*James Mercer *Joseph Nevill
Botetourt	*John Bowyer *Andrew Lewis	Hanover	Patrick Henry, Jr. John Syme
Brunswick	John Jones Thomas Stith	Henrico	Richard Adams Samuel Duval
Buckingham	Henry Bell *Charles May	Isle of Wight	*James Bridger *Richard Hardy
Caroline	Edmund Pendleton Walker Taliaferro	James City	Lewis Burwell R. C. Nicholas
Charles City	*William Acrill Benjamin Harrison	Jamestown	*Champion Travis
Charlotte	*Paul Carrington James Speed	King & Queen	*George Brooke *John T. Corbin
Chesterfield	Archibald Cary *Benjamin Watkins	King George	William Fitzhugh Joseph Jones
The College	†John Page	King William	*William Aylett *Augustine Moore
Culpeper	Henry Field, Jr. Henry Pendleton	Lancaster	Charles Carter Richard Mitchell
Cumberland	*John Fleming *John Mayo	Loudoun	*Thomas Mason Francis Peyton
Dinwiddie	*John Banister *Robert Bolling	Louisa	*Richard Anderson Dabney Carr
Dunmore	*Francis Slaughter *Joseph Watson	Lunenburg	Richard Claiborne Thomas Pettus
Elizabeth City	Henry King Worlich Westwood	Mecklenburg	*Mathew Marrable *Robert Munford
Essex	James Edmundson *William Roane	Middlesex	Edmund Berkeley James Montagu
Fairfax	George Washington *John West	Nansemond	*Benjamin Baker Lemuel Riddick

*Not shown by the Journal to have been present during the Assembly.
†"Rosewell," Gloucester County.

New Kent	Burwell Bassett Bartholomew Dandridge	Richmond	Robert Wormley Carter Francis Lightfoot Lee
Norfolk	James Holt *Thomas Newton, Jr.	Southampton	Edwin Gray Henry Taylor
Norfolk Borough	Joseph Hutchings	Spotsylvania	*Mann Page, Jr. George Stubblefield
Northampton	John Bowdoin John Burton	Stafford	John Alexander Charles Carter
Northumberland	*Rodham Kenner Peter P. Thornton	Surry	*Allen Cocke Nicholas Faulcon, Jr.
Pittsylvania	John Donelson *Hugh Innes	Suffex	Richard Blunt *David Mason
Prince Edward	*Paschal Greenhill *Peter Legrand	Warwick	William Harwood William Langhorne
Prince George	Richard Bland Peter Poythres	Westmoreland	Richard Lee Richard Henry Lee
Prince William	Henry Lee *Foushee Tebbs	Williamsburg	Peyton Randolph
Princes Anne	Edward H. Moseley, Jr. Christopher Wright	York	Dudley Digges Thomas Nelson, Jr.

*Not shown by the Journal to have been present during the Assembly.

Changes in the Personnel, 1773.

Augusta	Charles Lewis succeeded John Wilson
Cumberland	John Mayo succeeded Alexander Trent
Frederick	Isaac Zane succeeded Robert Rutherford
Hampshire	Joseph Nevill succeeded Alexander White
Hanover	John Syme succeeded John Smith
Northampton	John Bowdoin succeeded Severn Eyre
Northumberland	Rodham Kenner succeeded Spencer M. Ball
Stafford	Charles Carter succeeded Yelverton Peyton
Surry	Nicholas Faulcon, Jr., succeeded Hartwell Cocke

Virginia, to wit:

By his Excellency the Right Honourable John Earl of Dunmore, his Majesty's Lieutenant and Governor General of the said Colony and Dominion, and Vice Admiral of the same.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, the General Assembly stands prorogued to the first *Thursday* in the next month and I find no urgent occasion for the said Assembly's meeting at that time; I have therefore thought fit by and with the advice of his Majesty's Council, by this proclamation, in his Majesty's name, further to prorogue the said Assembly to the first *Thursday* in *May* next.

Given under my hand, and the seal of the colony, at *Williamsburg*, this 19th day of *October*, 1772, and in the twelfth year of his Majesty's reign.

Dunmore.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

By his **Excellency** the Right Honourable **John**
Earl of **Dunmore**, his Majesty's Lieutenant and Gov-
ernor General of the Colony and Dominion of **Vir-
ginia** and Vice Admiral of the same.

A PROCLAMATION.

Virginia, to wit:

Whereas, the General Assembly stands prorogued to the first *Thurday* in *May* next but it is judged expedient that the said Assembly should meet sooner, in order to deliberate on a matter I have to lay before them of great moment to the welfare of this Colony; I have therefore thought fit, by and with the consent and advice of his Majesty's Council by this Proclamation in his Majesty's name to appoint *Thurday* the fourth day of *March* next for that purpose; at which time the attendance of the General Assembly is accordingly required at the Capitol in the City of *Williamsburg*.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Colony at *Williamsburg* aforesaid this sixth day of *February*, 1773, and in the thirteenth Year of his Majesty's reign.

Dunmore.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

JOURNAL

of the

HOUSE OF BURGESSES

Thursday, the 4th of March, 13 Geo. III. 1773.

A Message from the Governor by *John Blair, Esquire, Clerk of the Council.*

M^r Speaker,

The Governor commands this House to attend his Excellency immediately, in the Council-Chamber.

Accordingly M^r Speaker, with the House went up to attend his Excellency.

And being returned;

M^r Speaker reported, that the house had attended the Governor in the Council-Chamber, where his Excellency was pleased to make a speech to the Council and this House, of which M^r Speaker said he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a Copy; which he read to the House, and is as followeth, *viz.*

*Gentlemen of the Council, M^r Speaker and Gentlemen
of the House of Burgesses.*

It was far from my intention when we parted last, to have put you to the expence and trouble of meeting again here so soon, but I am persuaded you will feel the Necessity of it, when I inform you, that all the Emissions of your paper Currency now in Circulation are forged,¹ and that in so Masterly a Manner that it is almost impossible for those the most knowing in these Matters to distinguish the good from the bad; Seeing the Credit of the Country so deeply affected by it, I thought it my duty to Assemble you immediately, that you might pursue such measures as you shall think proper to restore it (if possible) to its former credit, and I do most sincerely Congratulate you both on its being discovered so soon, and that the Authors² of Coining your Gold and Silver, as well as forging and passing your paper Money, are in so fair a way of receiving that punishment which is due to their Crimes as well those in a Neighboring Province as them in this Colony.

*M^r Speaker and Gentlemen of the
House of Burgesses.*

Having nothing in command from his Majesty to trouble you with at present, I hope you will proceed immediately with the Coolness, and Candour, that is becoming so respectable a body, to the busines on which you are now Assembled.

*Gentlemen of the Council, M^r Speaker and
Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses.*

I do assure you, you will do me but Justice when you think, that I shall always be most exceedingly happy in concurring with you, in enacting any Laws, that may be thought will

¹ Robert C. Nicholas, Treasurer of the Colony of Virginia, announces the detection of this crime, in the Virginia Gazette of Feb. 4, 1773.

² See public notices signed "Lawfon" and "A Friend" in the Virginia Gazette of April 8, 1773.

will contribute to the mutual advantage of this and our Mother Country, whose interest I hope we shall ever think inseparable.

Resolved, that an humble address be presented to his Excellency the Governor, returning him the thanks of this House for his kind speech at the opening of this Session, expressing our great concern to find that our Gold and Silver coin as well as our paper Currency have been Counterfeited in so dangerous and alarming a manner but at the same time to thank his Excellency for giving us so early an opportunity of deliberating on a subject of such infinite importance to the Credit of this Colony which we will take under our immediate and most serious Consideration, and to declare our confidence in his Excellency's ready concurrence with us in every measure that may be for the good of this Country.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to draw up an Address, to be presented to the Governor, upon the said Resolution.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Edmund Pendleton* and Mr *Harrison*.

Ordered, that the Governor's Speech to the Council and this House be referred to the said Committee.

Resolved, that the Governor's Speech be taken into Consideration tomorrow.

Resolved, that this House will tomorrow resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into Consideration the Governor's Speech.

Ordered, that the reverend *Thomas Price* be continued Chaplain to this House, and that he attend to read Prayers at ten of the Clock every Morning, in the House.

Ordered, that Mr *Richard Lee* do go to the Council, and acquaint them, that the Chaplain will attend to read Prayers at ten of the Clock every Morning in the House.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor, to order a new writ to issue for the electing of a Burgefs¹ to serve in this present General Assembly for the County of *Augusta*, in the room of Mr *John Wilson* deceased; and that Mr *Richard Lee* do wait upon his Excellency with the said Address.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor, to order a new Writ to issue for the electing of a Burgefs² to serve in this present General Assembly for the County of *Frederick*, in the room of Mr *Robert Rutherford*, who, since his Election for the said County, hath accepted the Office of one of his Majesty's Coroners of the said County; and that Mr *Edmund Pendleton* do wait upon his Excellency with the said Address.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor, to order a new Writ to issue for the electing of a Burgefs³ to serve in this present General Assembly for the County of *Hanover*, in the room of Mr *John Smith* deceased; and that Mr *Edmund Pendleton* do wait upon his Excellency with the said Address.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor, to order a new Writ to issue for the electing of a Burgefs⁴ to serve in this present General Assembly for the County of *Northampton* in the room of Mr *Severn Eyre*, deceased; and that Mr *Burton* do wait upon his Excellency with the said Address.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor to order a new Writ to issue for the electing of a Burgefs⁵ to serve in this present General Assembly for the County of *Surry*, in the room of Mr *Hartwell Cocke*, deceased, and that Mr *Bland* do wait upon his Excellency with the said Address.

Ordered, that *Robert Hyland*, *William Hicks*, *John Creagh*, and *William Drinkard* be continued Door-keepers to this House, and that they give their attendance accordingly.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor to order a new Writ to issue for the electing of a Burgefs⁶ to serve in this present General Assembly for the County of *Hampshire*, in the room of Mr *Alexander White*, who, since his Election for the said County, hath accepted the Office of his Majesty's deputy Attorney in the Court of the said County; and that Mr *Rutherford* do wait upon his Excellency with the said Address,

Ordered.

¹ Charles Lewis.
⁶ Joseph Nevill.

² Isaac Zane.

³ John Syme.

⁴ John Bowdoin.

⁵ Nicholas Faulcon, Jr.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor to order a new Writ to issue for the electing of a Burgeſſ¹ to serve in this preſent General Aſſembly for the County of *Northumberland*, in the room of M^r *Spencer-Mottrom Ball*, who, ſince his Election for the ſaid County, hath accepted the Office of Sheriff of the ſaid County; and that M^r *Richard Lee* do wait upon his Excellency with the ſaid Address.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor, to order a new Writ to issue for the electing of a Burgeſſ² to serve in this preſent General Aſſembly for the County of *Stafford*, in the room of M^r *Yelverton Peyton*, who, ſince his election for the ſaid County, hath accepted the Office of an Inspector of Tobacco; and that M^r *Alexander* do wait upon his Excellency with the ſaid Address.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor, to order a new Writ to issue for the electing of a Burgeſſ³ to serve in this preſent General Aſſembly for the County of *Charlotte*, in the room of M^r *Paul Carrington*, who, ſince his election for the ſaid County, hath accepted the Office of Clerk of the Court of the County of *Hallifax*; and that M^r *Speed* do wait upon his Excellency with the ſaid Address.

Several Members, returned upon new Writs having taken the Oath appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and ſubſcribed the Teſt, took their places in the Houſe.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor to order a new Writ to issue for the electing of a Burgeſſ⁴ to serve in this preſent General Aſſembly for the County of *Fauquier*, in the room of M^r *Thomas Marshall*, who, ſince his election for the ſaid County, hath accepted the Office of Clerk of the Court of the County of *Dunmore*; and that M^r *Henry Lee* do wait upon his Excellency with the ſaid Address.

And then the Houſe adjourned til Tomorrow Morning eleven of the Clock.

7 **Friday, the 5th of March, 13 Geo. III. 1773.**

A Petition of ſeveral Persons, inhabitants of the Counties of *Southampton* and *Nanſemond*, whose names are thereunto ſubſcribed, was preſented to the Houſe and read, ſetting forth, that a Bridge,⁵ formerly built in purſuance of an Act of the General Aſſembly over *Nottoway* River, from the land of *Jeffe Brown*, was very convenient, but hath been carried away; and therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill authorizing Persons to receive Subſcriptions, and apply the Money ſubſcribed in erecting a Bridge at the place aforeread.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill purſuant to the Prayer of the ſaid Petition; and that M^r *Riddick* and M^r *Gray* do prepare, and bring in the ſame.

M^r *Treasurer* reported from the Committee, appointed to draw up an Address to be preſented to the Governor, that the Committee had drawn up an Address accordingly which they had directed him to report to the Houſe, and he read the ſame in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the ſame was read and is as followeth, *viz.*

My Lord,

We his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal ſubjects, the Burgeſſes of Virginia, now met in General Aſſembly, beg leave to return your Excellency our unfeigned Thanks for your kind Speech at the opening of this Seſſion.

It gives us much concern to find that our paper-currency, which we hoped had been effectually guarded, hath been forged in ſo ingenious and masterly a manner, as to render the Counterfeits of it the most dangerous and alarming. The debaſing of our Gold and Silver Coin alſo we conſider as the greatest addition to our Calamities; but it affords us

much

¹ Rodham Kenner. ² Charles Carter.

³ Carrington was re-elected.

⁴ Marshall probably re-elected. ⁵ Hening's VIII, p. 660.

much consolation to be informed by your Excellency that Mischief of such extensive and destructive Influence, have been so happily and seasonably discovered, and that the Authors of them are likely to be brought to exemplary and condign punishment. We beseech your Excellency to accept our grateful Acknowledgments for giving us so early an Opportunity of deliberating on a subject of such infinite Importance to the Credit of this Colony; We will take the Matter immediately under our most serious Consideration, and flatter ourselves that, in the discussion of this, and every other Subject, which may come before us, we shall give your Excellency the most convincing Proofs of that Coolness and Candour, which a proper Regard to our own Honour will incline us to upon all Occasions.

Sensible, as we are, My Lord, of the reciprocal benefits which redound to our Mother Country and this Colony from their intimate Connection with each other, we should be wanting to ourselves and the duty we owe to our Constituents, did we not consider their interests as inseparable; We cannot therefore but receive great satisfaction and Pleasure from your Lordship's Assurance of your Concurrences with us in enacting such Laws as may be thought advantageous and conducive to the Happiness of both Countries.

The said Address being read a second Time;

Resolved, nemine contradicente, that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Address, to be presented to the Governor.

Resolved that the said Address be presented to his Excellency by the whole House.

Ordered, that the Gentlemen, who drew up the said Address¹, do wait upon the Governor, to know his Pleasure when this House shall attend his Excellency, to present their Address.

Ordered, that a Committee of Privileges and Elections be appointed.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr Edmund Pendleton, Mr Treasurer, Mr Bland, Mr Cary, Mr Harrison, Mr Lewis Burwell, of James City, Mr Digges, Mr Charles Carter, Mr Nelson, Mr Richard Lee, Mr Riddick, Mr Whitinge, Mr Harwood, Mr Robert Wormley Carter, Mr John Page, Mr Dandridge, Mr Holt, Mr Baffett, Mr Moseley, Mr Joseph Jones, Mr Carr, Mr Francis Lightfoot Lee, Mr Fitzhugh, Mr Alexander, Mr Henry Lee, Mr Washington, Mr Thomas Mann Randolph, and Mr Jefferson; and they are to meet and adjourn from day to day, and to examine, in the first place, all returns of Writs for electing Burghesses to serve in this present General Assembly, and compare the same with the form prescribed by Law, and to take into their Consideration all such matters as shall or may come in Question touching returns, elections, and privileges; and to report their proceedings, with their opinions thereupon, from time, to time, to the House; and the said Committee are to have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records for their Information.

Resolved, that in all cases of controverted Elections, to be heard at the Barr of this House, or before the Committee of Privileges and Elections the Petitioners do, by themselves, or by their Agents, within a convenient time, to be appointed either by the House, or the Committee of privileges and Elections, as the Matter to be heard shall be before the House or the said Committee, deliver to the sitting Members, or their Agents, Lists of the Persons intended by the Petitioners to be objected to, who voted for the sitting Members, giving in the said Lists the several Heads of Objection, and distinguishing the same against the names of the Voters excepted to; and that the sitting Members do, by themselves, or their Agents, within the same time, deliver the like Lists, on their part to the Petitioners, or their Agents.

A Petition of Jack Power, praying that he may be appointed Clerk of the Committee of Privileges and Elections; and also,

A Petition of James Hubard for the same; and also

A Petition of Edmund Pendleton, junior, for the same,

Were severally presented to the House and read.

Resolved, that the Clerk of the said Committee be chosen by way of Balloting.

Ordered,

¹ Robert C. Nicholas, Edmund Pendleton and Benjamin Harrison.

Ordered, that the Members of this House do immediately prepare Tickets to be put into the *Glaſſ*,¹ with the name of the Person to be the said Clerk.

The *Glaſſ* being accordingly brought in;

The *Clerk* went with the same on each side the House, to receive the said Tickets:

And the Members having put in their Tickets, the *Glaſſ* was brought up to the Clerk's Table.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to examine the Tickets; and they do report to the House upon which of the said Petitioners the Majority falls.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Bland*, Mr *Harrison*, Mr *Cary*, and Mr *Nelson*; and they are to withdraw immediately.

Mr *Treasurer* reported from the Committee, that they had examined the Tickets accordingly; and that the Majority falls upon *Edmund Pendleton*, junior; and he read the report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was twice read, and is as followeth, viz.

<i>Edmund Pendleton</i> junior.....	35
<i>Jack Power</i>	25
<i>James Hubbard</i>	18

Ordered, that the said *Edmund Pendleton*, junior, be appointed Clerk to the Committee of Privileges and Elections.

¹² A *Petition* of several Persons, Inhabitants of the County of *Lancaster*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that a ferry over the Western branch of *Corotoman* River, would be very convenient; and therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for establishing a ferry over the said River, from the Land of *Gawin Lawry*, to the Land of *John Davis*.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr *Mitchell* and Mr *Charles Carter* do prepare, and bring in the same.

Resolved, that Mr *Treasurer*, out of the public Money in his hands, do pay to *Robert Donald*, Merchant, the sum of Eighty Pounds, of Current Money of *Virginia*, the valuation of a Slave, named *Milford*, belonging to the said *Robert Donald*, who was condemned by the Court of *Henrico* County in *December*, 1770, and executed for Felony,² the Record of whose Condemnation the Clerk of the said Court omitted to send certified to the last session of General Assembly.

Ordered, that Mr *Cary* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill for altering the Court Day of the County of *Loudoun*; and that Mr *Peyton* and Mr *Henry Lee* do prepare, and bring in the same.

The *Order* of the day being read, for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into Consideration the Governor's Speech;

¹³ *Ordered*, that his Excellency's Speech to the Council and this House be referred to the said Committee.

Then the House resolved itself into the said Committee.

Mr *Speaker* left the Chair.

Mr *Bland* took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr *Speaker* resumed the Chair.

Mr *Bland* reported from the Committee, that they had made a progress in the Matter to them referred; and that he was directed by the Committee to move, that they may have leave to sit again.

Resolved, that the House will, Tomorrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House to take into their further Consideration the Governor's Speech.

And then the House adjourned til Tomorrow Morning eleven of the Clock.

Saturday.

¹ A case with the upper part made chiefly of glaſſ, so that the objects contained may be ſeen but not handled — Murray, IV, p. 204.

² Hening's, III, pp. 269-270.

Saturday, the 6th of March, 13 Geo. III. 1773.

MR *Mitchell* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill for appointing a Ferry across the eastern branch of *Corotoman* River, in the County of *Lancaster*; and the same was received, and read the first Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second Time.

MR *Riddick* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill for building a Bridge over *Nottoway* River from the land of *Samuel Brown* by Subscription; and the same was received and read the first Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second Time.

MR *Peyton* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill for altering the ¹⁴ Court-Day of the County of *Loudoun*; ¹ and the same was received, and read the first Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second Time.

MR *Edmund Pendleton* reported from the Committee of Privileges and Elections, that the Committee, had according to order, examined the returns of the several Writs for electing Burgeses to serve in this present General Assembly for the Counties of *Berkeley*, *Dunmore*, and *Lunenburg*, and compared the same with the form prescribed by Law, and had come to a resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the resolution of the Committee was read, and it is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the returns of the said Writs are made in the form prescribed by Law.

The said *Resolution*, being read a second Time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill to vest certain intailed Lands, whereof *Bowles Armistead*, Gentleman, is seised, in Trustees, to be sold for payment of the Debts due from the Estate of his late Father *William Armistead*, Esquire; ² and that MR *Edmund Pendleton* and MR *Taliaferro* do prepare, and bring in the same.

15

MR *Treasurer* reported to the House, that the Governor having been waited upon, pursuant to the order of Yesterday, to know his Pleasure when he would be attended by this House, had been pleased to appoint to be attended upon *Monday* next, at two of the Clock in the afternoon in the Council Chamber.

A *Message* from the Governor by MR *Blair*:

MR *Speaker*,

I am commanded by the Governor, to acquaint this House, that his Excellency hath received information upon Oath, that Paschal Greenhill, a member of this House, hath been concerned in circulating several counterfeit Treasury Notes of this Colony knowing the same to be Forged.

Resolved, that an humble Address be presented to his Excellency the Governor, returning him the sincere thanks of this House for the information respecting MR *Paschal Greenhill*, which the House esteems as an instance of his Lordships tenderness and affection for the Privileges of the Members of this House; to assure him, that the House is filled with a just detestation of an Offence so dangerous in its Consequences; and to entreat that his Lordship will be pleased to direct that every legal Step be forthwith taken for securing the said MR *Greenhill*, that he may be brought to Justice, and all others accused upon good Grounds of the like Offence; and engaging, that this House will most chearfully pay any reasonable reward his Excellency may think fit to offer for apprehending such Offenders, to be paid upon their Conviction.

16
Ordered,

¹ Hening's, VIII, pp. 47, 658.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, pp. 487, 667.

Ordered, that the said Address be presented to his Excellency by Mr *Patrick Henry*, Mr *Holt*, Mr *Treasurer*, and Mr *Bland*.

An Account of sundry Expences incurred in the apprehending several Persons of the County of Pittsylvania, charged with Counterfeiting the Treasury Bills, and passing the same knowing them to be forged, and in conveying the accused to the City of Williamsburg, was presented to the House, and read.

Ordered, that the said Account be referred to the Consideration of a Committee of the whole House.

Resolved, that this House will, upon *Monday* next, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider of the said Account.

Resolved, that an humble Address be presented to his Excellency the Governor, that he will be pleased to give directions to the proper Officers, to lay before this House a State of the proceedings against several Persons of the County of *Pittsylvania*, who were accused of Counterfeiting Treasury Bills, and passing the same knowing them to be forged, and were apprehended, examined, and committed for the same.

Ordered, that the said Address be presented to his Excellency by Mr *Patrick Henry*, Mr *Bland*, and Mr *Dandridge*.

¹⁷ *Resolved*, that Mr *Treasurer*, out of the public Money in his hands, do pay the sum of five Pounds twelve shillings and sixpence to *Nathaniel Hunt* Sheriff of the County of *Halifax* and the sum of five Pounds to *Frederick Moss*, *Benjamin Vaughan*, *Moses Johnson*, *Zachariah Glass*, *James Dejarnet*, *Benjamin Abbott*, *James Hill*, *Jesse Nichols* and *Francis Parker* each, to reimburse their expences in coming to the City of *Williamsburg* with *Moses Terry*,¹ a Criminal from the County of *Halifax*, and returning home.

Ordered, that Mr *Cary* do carry the Resolution to the Council and desire their Concurrence.

The *Order of the Day* being read;

Resolved, that this House will, upon *Monday* next, Resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into their further Consideration the Governor's Speech.

And then the House adjourned til Monday Morning next eleven of the Clock.

Monday, the 8th of March, 13 Geo. III. 1773.

A Bill for appointing a Ferry across the eastern Branch of *Corotoman*, in the County of *Lancaster*, was read a second Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to Mr *Terry*, Mr *Mitchell*, and Mr *Richard Henry Lee*.

Ordered, that it be an Instruction to the said Committee, that they have Power to receive a Clause or Clauses, for appointing a Ferry across *Dan River*, in the County of ¹⁸ *Halifax*, from the Land of *James Irvin*, to the Land of *Thomas Davenport*.

Ordered, that it be an instruction to the said Committee that they have Power to receive a Clause or Clauses, for discontinuing the Ferry over *Rappahanock River*, from the lower side of *Parrot's Creek*, to *Teague's Creek*, on the Land of *Baldwin-Matthews Smith*, and from that Creek to the lower side of *Parrot's Creek*.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill to prevent counterfeiting the Paper Money of other Colonies;² and that Mr *Cary* and Mr *Henry Lee* do prepare, and bring in the same.

Mr *Henry Lee* from the Commissioners, constituted and appointed by the Act³ of last Session of the General Assembly, intituled, *An Act for appointing Commissioners for selling the Tobacco damaged in the public Warehouse for Inspection of Tobacco at Morton's and for other purposes therein mentioned*, to enquire into the quantity of Tobacco damaged in the public Warehouse at *Aquia*, in the County of *Stafford*, and State an Account

¹ Accused of counterfeiting.

² Hening's, VIII, pp. 651-2.

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 626-7.

Account thereof, and enquire by what means such damage happened, and report their Proceedings therein to this Session of Assembly, reported, that the Commissioners had inquired and stated an Account accordingly; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read.

Ordered, that the said Report be referred to the consideration of a Committee: and that they do examine into the matter thereof, and report their Opinion to the House, whether and how much the Owners of the said Tobacco ought to be paid by the Public for the damage which happened to it; and also whether and how much the Inspectors who have reviewed the said Tobacco ought to be allowed for that Service. ¹⁹

And it is referred to Mr *Bland*, Mr *Cary*, Mr *Edmund Pendleton*, Mr *Richard Henry Lee*, Mr *Treasurer*, and Mr *Harrison*.

A *Petition* of several Persons, inhabitants of the Counties of *Chesterfield*, *Cumberland*, *Amelia*, *Buckingham*, *Bedford*, and *Prince Edward*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the quantity of Tobacco brought to the Inspection at the *Rocky Ridge*, in the town of *Manchester*, is so great that the Inspectors cannot execute their Offices with proper dispatch; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for establishing another Inspection of Tobacco in the Town of *Manchester* aforesaid.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition, and that Mr *Bell* and Mr *Cary* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A *Petition* of *John Daniel*, and others, of the *Gingaskin* Nation of Indians, in the County of *Northampton*, was presented to the House and read, setting forth, that encroachments have been made, and waste committed upon the Lands of the Petitioners, and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for appointing Trustees to protect the Petitioners, and procure redress for them. ²⁰

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition and that Mr *Edmund Pendleton* and Mr *Burton* do prepare and bring in the same.

A *Petition* of several Persons, Inhabitants of the Counties of *Charlotte* and *Lunenburg*, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read, praying that Leave may be given to bring in a Bill for adding to the County of *Lunenburg* all that Part of the County of *Charlotte*, which lies on the East Side of a Line to be run from the Place where *Mecklenburg* County Line strikes *Charlotte* County Line to *Winbush's* burnt Ordinary.

Ordered, that the Consideration of the said Petition be deferred until the next Session of General Assembly.

A *Bill* for altering the Court Day of the County of *Loudoun* was read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

Mr *Patrick Henry* reported to the House that their address of Saturday last, that his Excellency would be pleased to direct that every legal Step be forthwith taken for securing Mr *Greenhill*, that he may be brought to Justice, and all others accused upon good Grounds of the like offence, having been presented to his Excellency, he was pleased to say it would give him great Pleasure to bring such Atrocious Offenders to public Justice.

A *Bill* for building a Bridge over *Nottoway* River, from the Land of *Samuel Brown*, by Subscription, was read a second Time.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

Mr *Patrick Henry* reported to the House that their Address of Saturday last, that his Excellency would be pleased to give directions that a State of the proceedings against several Persons, of the County of *Pittsylvania*, who were accused of counterfeiting Treasury Bills, and passing the same, knowing them to be forged, and were apprehended, examined and committed for the same, might be laid before this House had been presented to his Excellency, and that he was pleased to say, he will give directions accordingly. ²¹

A Petition¹ of several Persons, of the Town of *Richmond*, whose names are thereunto subcribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioners suffer many inconveniences from the want of proper regulations respecting the said Town; and therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill, to hinder the building of Wooden Chimnies in the said Town, to increase the number of the Trustees, with more extensive Powers, and provide for the Succession of them, to restrain Hogs from running at large in the said Town, and to revive the Act appointing Fairs to be kept therein.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition and that Mr *Adams* and Mr *Duval* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A Message from the Governor by Mr *Blair*.

Mr *Speaker*,

²² The Governor is now ready to receive the Address of your House in the Council Chamber.

Accordingly Mr *Speaker*, with the House, went up, and being returned, he reported, that the House had attended the Governor, with their Address, to which his Excellency was pleased to give this Answer.

Mr *Speaker*, and Gentlemen of the House of *Burghesses*,

I return you my most hearty Thanks for your most obliging Address. It gives me much pleasure that you propose taking immediately under your most serious Consideration the subject for which you are now assembled: and I make no doubt but your Wisdom will Suggest such a Plan as will relieve this Country from the very unfortunate situation in which you now find it.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into their further Consideration the Governor's Speech.

Mr *Speaker* left the Chair.

Mr *Bland* took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr *Speaker* resumed the Chair.

Mr *Bland* reported from the Committee, that they had come to a Resolution, which he read in his Place, and afterwards delivered in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

²³ Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that in Order to relieve the People from their present distrefs, occasioned by the Circulation of Counterfeit paper Money, the *Treasurer* ought to be impowered to borrow Specie, to redeem the emissions of 1769, and 1771; and, if he cannot effect the same in a short Time, that those Notes, now in Circulation, ought to be called in, and exchanged for others, to be issued, the most guarded that may be against Counterfeits, to circulate, until a proper Paper can be imported for a further exchange of such as may not then be otherwise redeemed.

The said *Resolution*, being read a second Time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.²

Ordered, that a Bill be brought in pursuant to the said Resolution; and that Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Bland*, Mr *Edmund Pendleton*, Mr *Cary*, Mr *Richard Henry Lee*, and Mr *Harrison* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A Message from the Governor by Mr *Blair*.

Mr *Speaker*,

I am commanded by his Excellency to lay before this House a State of the Proceedings against several Persons of the County of *Pittsylvania*, who were accused of Counterfeiting

¹ Hening's, VIII, pp. 655.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 647.

feiting Treasury Bills, and passing the same knowing them to be forged, and were apprehended, examined, and Committed for the same.

And he presented the said State at the Bar.

Ordered, that the said State do lie upon the Table.

Mr Edmund Pendleton presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to vest certain intailed Lands whereof Bowles Armistead, Gentleman, is seised, in Trustees, to be sold for the payment of the Debts due from the Estate of his late Father William ²⁴ Armistead, Esquire; and the same was received, and read the first Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second Time.

The other Order of the Day being read;

Resolved, that this House will, Tomorrow Resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider of the Account of sundry expences incurred in the apprehending several Persons of the County of Pittsylvania, charged with Counterfeiting Treasury Bills, and passing the same, knowing them to be forged, and in conveying the Accused to the City of Williamsburg.

And then the House adjourned til Tomorrow Morning eleven of the Clock.

Tuesday, the 9th of March, 13 Geo. III. 1773.

A Member, returned upon a new Writ, having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and subscribed the Test, took his place in the House.

Mr Mitchell reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill for appointing a Ferry across the Eastern Branch of Corotoman River in the County of Lancaster was committed, that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made several Amendments thereto, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place and afterwards delivered the Bill with the Amendments, in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendments were once read throughout; and then a second time, ²⁵ one by one, and, upon the Question severally put thereupon, were agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Bill, with the Amendments be engrossed.

Mr Adams presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to establish and enlarge the power of the Trustees of the Town of Richmond, in the County of Henrico, and for other purposes.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill to Amend the Act intituled *An Act for erecting a Light House on Cape-Henry*²⁶ and that Mr Harrison and Mr Hutchings do prepare, and bring in the same.

A Petition of John Tazewell was presented to the House, and read, setting forth, that the Petitioner is seised in Fee-Tail of a Tract of Land in the County of Northampton, containing about one thousand Acres, in one corner of which the Court-House of the said County is erected; that the Land near the said Court-House is at present of little or no value to the Petitioner; but that it would be of considerable advantage to him, as well as to the Inhabitants of the said County, that the intail of a few Acres thereof should be docked, and laid off in Lots for a Town; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for the purpose aforesaid.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition, and that Mr Treasurer and Mr Burton do prepare and bring in the same.

A Memorial of Robert Bolling, junior, of the County of Buckingham, representing that the Petitioner, had for some time past, applied his most serious Attention to vine-planting, and, from the Observations he had been able to make, is thoroughly convinced, that the culture of Grapes may be propagated in the upper parts of the Country, with singular

²⁴ Hening's, VIII, p. 539. ²⁵ Ibid., VIII, p. 665.

singular advantages to those possessed of such Mountainous Lands as are scarcely fit for any other purpose; that he hath lately engaged a native of *Switzerland*, who hath spent a considerable time in France, especially in such parts of the Country as are celebrated for making the best sorts of Wine¹, to instruct him in the business, which he seems to be thoroughly acquainted with, in all its Branches; and that the Memorialist, considering this as an Object of the greatest probable Utility to this Colony, was encouraged to hope, from the inclination shown, in a late instance, by this Honourable House to have experiments of the climate fairly made in order to determine how far it is suited to the culture of the Vine, that the Public will be pleased to further his Views, by giving him a moderate assistance, the better to enable him to prosecute his Scheme with success; and therefore submitting the matter to the Wisdom of the House, with the most cheerful acquiescence in whatever they may think fit and proper to be done.

²⁷ *Resolved*, that the sum of fifty Pounds Sterling be annually, during the term of five Years, paid by the *Treasurer*, out of the public Money in his Hands, to *Robert Bolling*, of the County of *Buckingham*, Esquire, to assist him in the prosecution of a Scheme he is engaged in of cultivating Grapes, in order to the making of Wine.

Ordered, that Mr *Treasurer* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Mr *Treasurer* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill for the better securing the public Credit² of this Colony; and the same was received, and read the first Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second Time.

A *Petition* of *David Griffith*, Clerk, rector of the Parish of *Shelburne*, in the County of *Loudoun*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner's salary, according to a late determination of the General Court, is payable at the rate of twelve Shillings and sixpence for every hundred Pounds Weight of Tobacco, which is inadequate, and less than the Salaries received by other Ministers of the Gospel in this Colony; and therefore praying, that the Act of General Assembly, allowing the Inhabitants of the County of *Loudoun* to discharge their public dues in Money at the rate of twelve shillings and sixpence per hundred for the Tobacco, as to so much thereof as relates to the Petitioner's salary, may be repealed.

²⁸ *Ordered*, that the Consideration of the said Petition be deferred til the next Session of the General Assembly.

A *Petition* of *Peter Pelham* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the annual Salaries allowed to him, as keeper of the public Gaol, and as Organist, will cease at the end of this present Session of Assembly; and therefore praying, that the said Salaries may be further Continued.

Resolved, that the sum of Forty Pounds per Annum, be paid to *Peter Pelham*, keeper of the public Gaol, as his Salary, to continue til the end of the next Session of General Assembly.

Ordered, that Mr *Nelson* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Resolved, that the sum of twenty five Pounds per Annum, be paid to *Peter Pelham*, for his Salary as Organist, to continue til the end of the next Session of General Assembly.

Ordered, that Mr *Nelson* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

A *Petition* of *Ezekiel Young* and *Charles Marshall*, Inspectors of Tobacco at *Pitts* and *Guilford* Warehouses, in the County of *Accomack*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that from several unforeseen and unavoidable Accidents, a considerable quantity of Tobacco in the Warehouse at *Tatham's Landing* was damaged and destroyed, notwithstanding the Petitioners used all their care and diligence to prevent it; and therefore praying such relief as to the House shall seem fit.

Ordered,

¹ An act encouraging the making of wine (Hening's, VIII, p. 364) was passed in November 1769. *Bolling* argues on the utility of Vine planting in the *Virginia Gazette*, February 25, 1773.

² Hening's, VIII, pp. 647-651.

Ordered, that the consideration of the said Petition be deferred til the next Session ²⁹ of General Assembly.

Mr *Cary* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill for establishing a Warehouse for the Inspection of Tobacco, in the Town of *Manchester*, and the same was received and read the first Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second Time.

Mr *Edmund Pendleton* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill for appointing Trustees for the *Gingaskin* Indians; and the same was received, and read the first Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second Time.

The *Order* of the Day being read, for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider of the Account of sundry expences incurred in the apprehending several Persons, of the County of *Pittsylvania*, charged with counterfeiting Treasury Bills, and passing the same, knowing them to be forged, and in conveying the accused to the City of *Williamsburg*:

Ordered, that the State of the Proceedings against the said Persons, which was Yesterday ordered to lie upon the Table be referred to the said Committee.

Then the House resolved itself into the said Committee.

Mr *Speaker* left the Chair.

Mr *Bland* took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr *Speaker* resumed the Chair.

Mr *Bland* reported from the Committee, that they had made a progress in the ³⁰ matters to them referred, and that he was directed by the Committee to move, that they may have leave to sit again.

Resolved, that this House will Tomorrow resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider of the Account of sundry expences incurred in the apprehending several Persons, of the County of *Pittsylvania*, charged with counterfeiting Treasury Bills, and passing the same knowing them to be forged, and in conveying the accused to the City of *Williamsburg*.

And then the House adjourned til Tomorrow Morning eleven of the Clock.

Wednesday, the 10th of March, 13 Geo. III. 1773.

MR *Cary* presented to the House according to Order, a Bill to prevent counterfeiting the Paper Money of other Colonies; and the same was received and read the first Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second Time.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed, to inquire what Laws are expired, or near expiring; and to report their Opinion to the House, which of them are fit to be revived or Continued:

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Richard Henry Lee*, Mr *Woodson*, Mr *Gray*, Mr *Taylor*, Mr *Thomas Mann Randolph*, Mr *Pettus*, Mr *Thornton*, Mr *Westwood*, Mr *King*, Mr *Claiborne*, Mr *Montagu*, Mr *Blunt*, Mr *Langhorne*, Mr *James Henry*, Mr *John Jones*, Mr *Speed*, Mr *Holt*, Mr *Walker*, Mr *Dandridge*, Mr *Peyton*, Mr *Edmondson*, Mr *Henry Pendleton*, Mr *Field*, Mr *Stith*, Mr *Barbour*, Mr *Burnley*, and Mr *Lewis Burwell*, of Gloucester.

Mr *Bland* reported from the Committee, to whom the report of the Commissioners appointed by the Act of the last Session of General Assembly, to inquire into the quantity of Tobacco damaged in the public Warehouse of *Aquia*,² in the County of *Stafford*, and state an Account thereof, and inquire by what means such damage happened, was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Report, and had

come

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 654. ² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 626.

come to several Resolutions thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table: where the Resolutions of the Committee were read and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Inspectors at the said Warehouse ought to be paid by the public for twenty two thousand two hundred and eighty eight Pounds of Tobacco, the Marks, numbers and Weights whereof are annexed to the said Report, at eighteen Shillings per hundred, to enable them to pay for the said Tobacco to the respective Proprietors, and that what remains of the said Tobacco ought to be sold towards reimbursing the Public.

³² *Resolved*, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the said Inspectors ought also to be paid by the Public for eighteen thousand two hundred and eighty two pounds of Tobacco damaged, and cut from several Hogsheads, which have been since shipped by the Proprietors thereof, at the like price of eighteen shillings per hundred, to enable the Inspectors to pay for such damage.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the said Inspectors ought to be allowed the sum of ten Pounds eighteen shillings and three pence, for their Trouble and Expences in cutting, re-weighing, and removing the Tobacco at the said Warehouse.

The said *Resolutions* being severally read a second Time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that a Bill be brought in pursuant to the said Resolutions: and that M^r *Alexander* and M^r *Henry Lee* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A *Petition* of *Peter Pelham*, keeper of the public Gaol, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the apartments in the said Gaol, appropriated to the use of the Petitioner, are but few in number, and they so small and contracted as to be very inconvenient, and therefore submitting the matter to the consideration of the House, and praying such relief as shall be thought reasonable.

³³ *Ordered*, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the prayer of the said Petition, and that M^r *Nelson*, M^r *Richard Henry Lee*, M^r *Patrick Henry* and M^r *Bland* do prepare and bring in the same.

M^r *Treasurer* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to dock the intail of part of a Tract of Land whereof *John Tazewell* is seised, and for settling Slaves of greater value, to the same Uses; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second Time.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a second Time.

The *Bill* was accordingly read a second Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be Committed to M^r *Bland*, M^r *James Henry*, M^r *Simpson* and M^r *Burton*.

The *Order* of the Day being read, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider further of the Account of sundry Expences incurred in apprehending several Persons, of the County of *Pittsylvania*, charged with counterfeiting Treasury Bills, and passing the same, knowing them to be forged, and in conveying the accused to the City of *Williamsburg*.

M^r *Speaker* left the Chair.

M^r *Bland* took the Chair of the Committee.

M^r *Speaker* resumed the Chair.

M^r *Bland* reported from the Committee, that they had come to several Resolutions which they had directed him to report, when the House will please to receive the same.

³⁴ *Ordered*, that the Report be now received.

M^r *Bland* accordingly reported from the said Committee, the Resolutions which the Committee had directed him to report to the House, which he read in his Place, and afterwards delivered in at the Clerk's Table; where the same were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that an humble address be presented

fented to the Governor giving his Excellency the thanks of the House for his Attention to the interest of this Colony by vigorously endeavouring to bring the Forgers of our Paper Currency to Justice. But as the proceedings in this Case, tho' rendered necessary from the particular nature of it, are, nevertheless, in the Opinion of the House, different from the usual Mode; it being regular that an examining Court should be held on the Criminal, either in the County where the Arrest was made, or the Fact committed; the House therefore humbly entreat his Excellency, that they may not in future be drawn into Consequence or Example.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the sum of two hundred Pounds, be paid to Mr *John Lightfoot*, over and above his Expences, for his Diligence in apprehending the Persons accused of counterfeiting the Treasury Bills, and in bringing them to Justice, and for the Hardships he suffered, and the Dangers he was expos'd to in that Service.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Persons who assisted Mr *John Lightfoot* in apprehending and guarding the Persons accused of counterfeiting the Paper Bills ought to be rewarded by the Public. ³⁵

The said *Resolutions* being read a second Time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to draw up an Address, to be presented to his Excellency, upon the first of the said Resolutions.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Bland*, Mr *Richard Henry Lee*, Mr *Harrison*, Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Edmund Pendleton*, Mr *Cary*, Mr *Patrick Henry* and Mr *Dandridge*.

Resolved, that the sum of two hundred Pounds be paid to Mr *John Lightfoot*, over and above his Expences, for his Diligence in apprehending the Persons accused of counterfeiting the Treasury Bills, and in bringing them to Justice, and for the Hardships he suffered and the Dangers he was expos'd to in that Service.

Ordered, that Mr *Treasurer* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to state an Account of the Expences of Mr *John Lightfoot* in apprehending the Persons accused of Counterfeiting the Treasury Bills, and in bringing them to Justice, and also to consider of a proper reward to the Persons who assisted him in performing that Service; and report the same to the House. ³⁶

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Cary*, Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Donelson*, Mr *Jones* and Mr *Jefferson*.

Resolved, that the sum of three Pounds be paid to *Thomas Ludwell Lee*, *Thomas Blackburn*, *Henry Lee*, *Samuel Selden*, and *William Alexander*, Commissioners, appointed by Act of General Assembly to inquire into the quantity of Tobacco damaged in the Public Warehouse at *Aquia*, in the County of *Stafford*, each, for their Attendance and Services in execution of the said Act.

Ordered, that Mr *Bland* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

A Bill to vest certain intailed Lands, whereof *Bowles Armistead*, Gentleman, is seised, in Trustees, to be sold for payment of the Debts due from the Estate of his late father *William Armistead*, Esquire, was read a second Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to Mr *Edmund Pendleton*, Mr *Taliaferro*, Mr *Henry Pendleton*, and Mr *Field*.

A Bill for the better securing the Public Credit of this Colony, was read a second Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Resolved, that this House will, Tomorrow, Resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the said Bill.

A Bill for establishing a Warehouse for the Inspection of Tobacco, in the Town of ³⁷ *Manchester*, was read a second Time.

Ordered,

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

A *Bill* to establish and enlarge the Power of the Trustees of the Town of *Richmond*, in the County of *Henrico*, and for other Purposes, was read a second Time.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

A *Bill* for appointing Trustees for the *Gingaskin* Indians, was read a second Time.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

A *Bill* to prevent Counterfeiting the Paper Money of other Colonies, was read a second Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Resolved, that this House will, Tomorrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House upon the said Bill.

A *Petition* of *Lewis Burwell*, of the County of *Gloucester*, was presented to the House, and read, setting forth, that the Petitioner is seised, as Tenant in fee-tail, of certain Lands, in the County of *Gloucester*, and, as Tenant in fee-simple, of other Lands, in the County of *Prince William*; and that it would be to the benefit of the issue in Tail, as well as of those in remainder, that the intail of the said Lands in *Gloucester* should be docked, and those in the County of *Prince William*, which are of greater value settled ^{ss} in lieu thereof, to the same Uses; and therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for that Purpose.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that *M^r Edmund Pendleton* and *M^r Berkeley* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A *Petition* of several Persons, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that a public Ferry over *Shanandoah* River, from the land of *Thomas Bryan Martin*, Esquire, where *John Nichols* lately lived, to the Land of the Right honourable *Thomas Lord Fairfax*, in the County of *Frederick*, would be very convenient; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for establishing a public Ferry at that Place.

Ordered, that the consideration of the said Petition be deferred til the next Session of General Assembly.

An engrossed *Bill* for building a Bridge over *Nottoway* River, from the Land of *Samuel Brown*, by Subscription, was read the third Time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act for building a Bridge over Nottoway River, from the Land of Samuel Brown, by Subscription.*¹

Ordered, that *M^r Gray* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

And then the House adjourned til Tomorrow Morning eleven of the Clock.

Thursday, the 11th of March, 13 Geo. III. 1773.

MR *Bland* reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill to dock the intail of part of a Tract of Land whereof *John Tazewell* is seised, and for settling Slaves, of greater value, to the same Uses was committed, that the Committee had examined the Allegations of the Bill, and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had directed him to report the Bill to the House, without any Amendment; and he delivered the Bill in at the Clerk's Table.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

An engrossed *Bill* for altering the Court Day of the County of *Loudoun* was read the third Time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be *An Act for altering the Court Day of the County of Loudoun.*

Ordered,

¹ *Hening's*, VIII, p. 660.

Ordered, that Mr *Peyton* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Mr *Bland* reported from the Committee appointed Yesterday to draw up an Address to be presented to the Governor, that the Committee had drawn up an Address accordingly, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the same in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

My Lord,

We, his Majesty's dutiful subjects, beg leave to present your Excellency our sincere thanks for your attention to the interest of this Colony, by vigorously endeavouring to bring the forgers of our Paper Currency to Justice; but the Proceedings in this Case, My Lord, though rendered necessary by the particular nature of it, are nevertheless different from the usual Mode, it being regular that an examining Court on Criminals should be held, either in the County where the Fact was committed; or the Arrest made. The duty we owe our Constituents obliges us, My Lord, to be as attentive to the safety of the innocent as we are desirous of punishing the Guilty; and we apprehend, that a doubtful construction and various execution of Criminal Law does greatly endanger the safety of innocent Men. We do therefore most humbly pray your Excellency, that the proceedings in this Case may not in future be drawn into Consequence or Example.

The said Address being read a second Time;

Resolved, that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Address to be presented to the Governor.

Resolved, that the said Address be presented to his Excellency by the whole House.

Ordered, that Mr *Bland* and Mr *Richard Henry Lee* do wait upon the Governor, to know his Pleasure when the House shall attend his Excellency, to present their Address.

Mr *Nelson* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill² for making an addition to the House appropriated to the use of the public Gaoler; and the same was received, ⁴¹ and read the first Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second Time.

A Petition of the Vestry of the Parish of *Dale*, in the County of *Chesterfield*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that by the late division of the said Parish into two, a much larger quantity of Land and greater number of Tithables are included in the new Parish of *Manchester*, than remain in the said Parish of *Dale*, and therefore praying that the dividing boundaries between the said Parishes may be altered, and begin at the Ferry at *Warwick*, on *James* River, and run up the Road to *Newby's* Bridge, on *Swift* Creek, and from thence, in a straight line, to the Mouth of *Winterpock* Creek on *Appomattox* River, which will make the quantities of Land and number of Tithables in both Parishes nearly equal to one another.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill³ pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr *Cary* and Mr *Bland* do prepare and bring in the same.

Mr *Harrison* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to amend the Act, intituled *An Act for erecting a Lighthouse on Cape-Henry*; ⁴ and the same was received and read the first Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second Time.

A Petition of *William Rind* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that his Salary, as public Printer, will expire at the end of this Session of General Assembly; and therefore praying, that the same may be continued.

Resolved, that the sum of four hundred and fifty Pounds per Annum, be allowed ⁴² to *William Rind*, Printer, to continue to the end of the next Session of General Assembly, as a full consideration for printing the Journal of the House of Burgesses, and the Laws

¹ Hening's, II, p. 63

² Ibid., VIII, p. 662

³ Ibid., VIII, p. 655

⁴ Ibid., VIII, p. 539

Laws of each Session, and sending as many Copies of the Laws to the County Court Clerks, as there are acting Justices in the Commission in each respective County, and one other, which is to be half bound, for the use of the Court, and ten to the Clerks of the Courts of Hustings, in the City of *Williamsburg*, and Borough of *Norfolk*, and printing Inspectors Receipts, and Books, Proclamations, and public Advertisements.

Ordered, that Mr *Richard Henry Lee* do carry the Resolution to the Council and desire their Concurrence.

Mr *Richard Henry Lee* reported from the Committee, who were appointed to inquire what Laws were expired, or near expiring, and to report their Opinion to the House which of them are fit to be revived or continued, that the Committee had enquired accordingly, and had come to a Resolution, which they had directed him to report to the House; which he read in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Act of Assembly made in the thirtieth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King *George* the Second, intituled ⁴³ *An Act for the better regulating and disciplining the Militia*,¹ which was continued and amended by two other Acts, in the third and seventh Years of his present Majesty's Reign, and further continued by another Act,² made in the tenth Year of his said Majesty's Reign, and which will expire on the twentieth day of July next, ought to be further Continued.

The said *Resolution*, being read a second Time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that a Bill be brought in pursuant to the said Resolution; and that Mr *Richard Henry Lee* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A *Petition* of several Persons, freeholders of the County of *Amherst*, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Act made at the last Session of General Assembly, for amending the Act, intituled *An Act for the better preservation of the breed of Deer, and preventing unlawful hunting*,³ had not answered the good purposes intended by it; and therefore praying, that so much of the said Act as prohibits Persons from hunting and killing Deer until the time thereby limited, may be repealed.

Ordered, that the Consideration of the said Petition be deferred til the next Session of General Assembly.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill for establishing a better method of bringing to trial Persons concerned in forging or coining the Money current in this Colony; and that Mr *Richard Henry Lee* and Mr *Wright* do prepare, and bring in the same.

⁴⁴ Mr *Edmund Pendleton* reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill to vest certain intailed Lands, whereof *Bowles Armistead*, Gentleman, is feised, in Trustees, to be sold for payment of the Debts due from the Estate of his late father *William Armistead*, Esquire, was committed, that the Committee had examined the Allegations of the Bill, and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had directed him to report the Bill to the House without any Amendment; and he delivered the Bill in at the Clerk's Table.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

Mr *Alexander* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill for appointing Commissioners for selling the Tobacco damaged in the public Warehouse for the Inspection of Tobacco at *Aquia*, and for other purposes therein mentioned; and the same was received, and read the first Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second Time.

Mr *Cary* reported from the Committee, who were appointed to state an Account of the Expences of Mr *John Lightfoot* in apprehending the Persons accused of counterfeiting

¹ *Hening's*, VII, p. 93., *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 241. ² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 503. ³ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 591.

feiting the Treasury Bills, and in bringing them to Justice, and also to consider of a proper Reward to the Persons who assisted him in performing that Service, and to report the same to the House, that the Committee had accordingly stated an Account, and considered of the Matters to them referred, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolution of the Committee, with the Account thereunto annexed, was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the several Persons hereafter mentioned ought to be allowed for the said Service the respective Sums following, that is to say,

To <i>John Lightfoot</i> , the balance of his Expences	£ 5. 11. 10½
To <i>Sherwood Lightfoot</i> , Tavern and ferry <i>Keeper at Flower de Hundred</i>	14. 9. 9
To <i>Cuthbert Hubard</i> , Tavern-keeper for Expences	11. 7. 6
To <i>Thomas Bruce</i> , Tavern-keeper at <i>Pittsylvania Court-House for Expences</i>	7. 19. 9
To <i>Daniel Shelton</i> , (<i>Pittsylvania</i>) Expences	4. 10. 1½
To <i>Jacob Kelly</i> , Tavern-keeper in <i>Halifax</i>	4. 2.
To <i>John Tankersley</i> , Tavern-keeper at <i>Charlotte Court-House</i>	1. 19. 3
To <i>Daniel Stone</i> , Tavern-keeper in <i>Prince Edward</i>	5. 5. 8
To <i>Christopher Robinson</i> , Tavern-keeper in <i>Amelia</i>	4. 11. 6
To <i>Thomas Wild</i> , Tavern-keeper in <i>Prince George</i>	8. 5.
To <i>Abraham Shelton</i> , for his Expences	3.—. 9
To <i>John Mason</i> , 7—6 <i>John Payne</i> , 1—3	. 8. 9
To <i>Crispin Shelton</i> , for a Horse drowned	8.—.—
To <i>Abraham Shelton</i> , Under-Sheriff of <i>Pittsylvania</i>	25.—.—
To <i>Daniel Shelton</i> , <i>Gabriel Shelton</i> , <i>Beverley</i> <i>Shelton</i> , <i>Armistead Shelton</i> , <i>John</i> <i>Gregory</i> , <i>William Gregory</i> , <i>John Payne</i> , <i>William Pace</i> and <i>Joseph Cox</i> each £10.	£ 90.—.— 46
To <i>John East</i> , <i>Spencer Shelton</i> , <i>John Henry</i> , <i>Thomas Hutchings</i> , <i>John Donelson</i> , junior, <i>Luke Williams</i> , <i>Uriah Cameron</i> , <i>Hall</i> <i>Hudson</i> and <i>Richard Farthing</i> £3. each	27.—.—
To <i>Lewis Shelton</i> and <i>Arthur Keese</i> , <i>Pittsylvania</i> , sixpounds each.	12.—.—
To <i>Daniel Lovell</i> , <i>Pittsylvania</i>	4. 18. 10½
To <i>Joseph Eckols</i> £5. <i>Richard Stokes</i> and <i>John Pace</i> £4. each.	13.—.—
To <i>John Wimbush</i> , of <i>Pittsylvania</i> , five pair of Hand Cuffs	1. 5.—
	£252. 15. 9½

The said Resolution being read a second Time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that M^r *Cary* do carry the Resolution to the Council and, desire their Concurrence.

An engrossed Bill for appointing a ferry across the Eastern branch of *Corotoman* River, in the County of *Lancaster*, was read the third Time.

Resolved,

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act for appointing two new ferries, and discontinuing a former ferry.*¹

Ordered, that Mr. Mitchell do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

An engrossed Bill for establishing a Warehouse for the inspection of Tobacco in the Town of *Manchester*, was read the Third Time.

⁴⁷ *Resolved*, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act for establishing a Warehouse for the inspection of Tobacco in the Town of Manchester.*²

Ordered, that Mr. Cary do carry the Bill to the Council and desire their Concurrence.

An engrossed Bill, for appointing Trustees for the *Gingaskin* Indians, was read the third Time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be *An Act for appointing Trustees for the Gingaskin Indians.*³

Ordered, that Mr. Edmund Pendleton do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

A *Petition* of several Members of the Vestry of the Parish of *Saint Anne* in the County of *Albemarle*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that only three or four Members of the present Vestry were elected by the Inhabitants, the others having been chosen to supply vacancies by death, removal, or resignation; and that the greater part of the Parishioners seems dissatisfied with the Conduct of the said Vestry; and therefore praying, that the said Vestry may be dissolved.

Ordered, that the Consideration of the said Petition be deferred til the next Session of General Assembly.

Mr. Edmund Pendleton presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *Lewis Burwell*, Gentleman, is seised, and for settling other Lands and Slaves to the same Uses; and the same was received, and read the first Time.

⁴⁸ *Resolved*, that the Bill be read a second Time.

An engrossed Bill to establish and enlarge the Power of the Trustees of the Town of *Richmond*, in the County of *Henrico*, and for other purposes, was read the third Time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act to establish and enlarge the Power of the Trustees of the Town of Richmond in the County of Henrico, and for other purposes.*⁴

Ordered, that Mr. Adams do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Mr. Cary presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill for altering the bounds between the Parishes of *Dale* and *Manchester*, in *Chesterfield* County; and the same was received, and read the first Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second Time.

An engrossed Bill to dock the intail of part of a Tract of Land, whereof *John Tazewell* is seised, and for settling Slaves, of greater value to the same Uses, was read the third Time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act to dock the intail of part of a Tract of Land, whereof John Tazewell is seised, and for settling Slaves, of greater value to the same Uses.*⁵

Ordered, that Mr. Bland do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Mr. Richard Henry Lee presented to the House, according to order, a Bill for establishing a better method of bringing to Trial persons concerned in forging or coining the Money current in this Colony; and the same was received, and read the first Time.

Resolved,

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 658.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 654.

³ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 661.

⁴ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 655.

⁵ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 665.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second Time.

The House according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House upon the Bill for the better securing the public Credit of this Colony.

M^r *Speaker* left the Chair.

M^r *Bland* took the Chair of the Committee.

M^r *Speaker* resumed the Chair.

M^r *Bland* reported from the Committee, that they had gone through the Bill, and made several Amendments thereunto; which they had directed him to report, when the House will please to receive the same.

Ordered, that the Report be now received.

M^r *Bland* accordingly reported from the said Committee the Amendments which the Committee had made to the Bill, and which they had directed him to report to the House and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendments, in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendments were once read throughout, and then a second time, one by one, and, upon the Question severally put thereupon, were agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Bill, with the Amendments be engrossed.

Ordered, that M^r *Terry* have leave to be absent from the Service of this House for ⁵⁰ the remainder of this Session.

The House being informed, that several Treasury Bills, amounting to fifty Pounds, which appear to be Counterfeits, have been taken at the public Treasury.

Ordered, that it be referred to a Committee to inquire how it happened that such Counterfeits were received; and that they report the matter, as it shall appear to them, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House:

And it is referred to M^r *Bland*, M^r *Cary*, M^r *Harrison*, M^r *Richard Henry Lee*, M^r *Edmund Pendleton*, M^r *Joseph Jones*, M^r *John Jones*, M^r *Jefferson*, and M^r *Lewis Burwell*, of *James City*.

The other *Order* of the Day being read;

Resolved, that this House will Tomorrow resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill to prevent counterfeiting the paper Money of other Colonies.

And then the House adjourned til Tomorrow Morning eleven of the Clock.

Friday, the 12th of March, 13 Geo. III. 1773.

ORDERED, that a Committee be appointed to examine the enrolled Bills and Resolves.

And a Committee was appointed of M^r *Digges*, M^r *Lewis Burwell*, of *James City*, M^r *Henry Lee*, M^r *Joseph Jones*, M^r *James Henry*, and M^r *Holt*.

A Bill for making an addition to the House appropriated to the use of the public ⁵¹ Gaoler was read a second Time.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

A Bill for appointing Commissioners for felling the Tobacco damaged in the public Warehouse for the Inspection of Tobacco at *Aquia*, and for other Purposes therein mentioned, was read a second Time.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

A Bill for altering the Bounds between the Parishes of *Dale* and *Manchester*, *Chesterfield County*, was read a second Time.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

An engrossed Bill for the better securing the public Credit of this Colony was read the third Time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act for the better securing the public Credit of this Colony*.¹

Ordered,

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 647.

Ordered, that Mr *Bland* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Ordered, that Leave be given to bring in a Bill for the Ease and Relief of the People, by paying the *Burgeesses* in money for this present Session of Assembly; and that Mr *Henry Lee* do prepare, and bring in the same.

Ordered, that this House be called over Tomorrow.

An engrossed Bill to vest certain intailed Lands, whereof *Bowles Armistead*, Gentleman, is seised, in Trustees, to be sold for Payment of the Debts due from the Estate of his late father, *William Armistead*, Esquire, was read the third Time.

⁵² *Resolved*, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act to vest certain intailed Lands, whereof Bowles Armistead, Gentleman, is seised, in Trustees, to be sold for payment of the Debts due from the Estate of his late Father, William Armistead Esquire.*

Ordered, that Mr *Edmund Pendleton* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

A Message from the Council by Mr *Blair*:

Mr Speaker,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act² for building a Bridge over Nottoway River, from the Land of Samuel Brown, by Subscription, without any Amendment; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act for appointing two new Ferries, and discontinuing a former Ferry,³ without any Amendment; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act for altering the Court Day of the County of Loudoun,⁴ without any Amendment; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Resolve for paying several Sums of Money to Nathaniel Hunt and others; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Resolve, for paying a certain sum of Money to John Lightfoot; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Resolve for paying a sum of Money to Robert Donald; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Resolve for paying several sums of Money to certain Commissioners.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

A Bill to amend the Act, intituled *An Act for erecting a Light House on Cape-Henry*,⁵ was read a second Time.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

Mr *Bland* reported from the Committee, to whom it was referred to inquire how it happened, that certain counterfeit Treasury Notes had been received at the Public Treasury, and to report the matter as it appeared to them, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House, that the Committee had inquired into the matter to them referred, and had agreed upon a Report, which they had directed him to make to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

It appears to your Committee, that, from the ingenious and Masterly manner in which the Counterfeits of the Treasury Notes, were executed, Sundry of such forged Notes, amounting to the sum of fifty Pounds, have been received at the Treasury, before the said forgeries were discovered, notwithstanding it appears to your Committee, upon the fullest inquiry, that every prudent precaution was used, as well in the Emission of the Notes as in the Receipt aforesaid.

Whereupon the Committee came to the following Resolution:

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the said Treasurer ought to be allowed to charge the said sum of fifty Pounds to the Public, in his Accounts.

⁵⁴ The said Resolution being read a second Time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Upon

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 667.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 660.

³ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 658.

⁴ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 658.

⁵ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 652.

Upon a Motion made,

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the State of the Colony.

M^r Speaker left the Chair.

M^r Bland took the Chair of the Committee.

M^r Speaker resumed the Chair.

M^r Bland reported from the Committee, that they had directed him to make the following Report to the House, *viz.*

Whereas, the minds of his Majesty's faithful Subjects in this Colony have been much disturbed, by various Rumours and Reports of proceedings tending to deprive them of their ancient, legal and constitutional Rights.

And *whereas*, the affairs of this Colony are frequently connected with those of Great Britain, as well as of the neighboring Colonies, which renders a Communication of Sentiments necessary; in Order therefore to remove the Uneasiness, and to quiet the minds of the People, as well as for the other good purposes above mentioned.

Be it *resolved*, that a standing Committee of Correspondence and inquiry be appointed to consist of eleven Persons, to wit, the Honourable Peyton Randolph, Esquire, Robert Carter Nicholas, Richard Bland, Richard Henry Lee, Benjamin Harrison, Edmund Pendleton, Patrick Henry, Dudley Digges, Dabney Carr, Archibald Cary, and Thomas ⁵⁵ Jefferson, Esquires, any six of whom to be a Committee, whose business it shall be to obtain the most early and Authentic intelligence of all such Acts and *Resolutions* of the British Parliament, or proceedings of Administration, as may relate to or affect the British Colonies in America, and to keep up and maintain a Correspondence and Communication with our Sister Colonies, respecting these important Considerations; and the result of such their proceedings, from Time to Time, to lay before this House.¹

Resolved, that it be an instruction to the said Committee, that they do, without delay, inform themselves particularly of the principles and Authority, on which was constituted a *Court of inquiry*, said to have been lately held in *Rhode Island*, with Powers to transmit Persons, accused of Offences committed in *America*, to places beyond the Seas, to be tried.

The said *Resolutions*, being severally read a second Time, were upon the Question severally put thereupon agreed to by the House, nemine contradicente.

Resolved, that the Speaker of this House do transmit to the Speakers of the different Assemblies of the British Colonies, on the Continent, Copies of the said *Resolutions*,² and desire that they will lay them before their respective Assemblies; and request them to appoint some Person or Persons, of their respective Bodies, to communicate, from Time to Time, with the said Committee.

A message from the Council by M^r Blair.

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M^r Speaker,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act for the better securing the public Credit of this Colony,³ without any Amendment; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, entituled An Act for establishing a Warehouse, for the inspection of Tobacco, in the Town of Manchester,⁴ without any Amendment; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act to dock the intail of part of a Tract of Land, whereof John Tazewell is seised, and for settling Slaves, of greater value, to the same Uses,⁵ without any Amendment; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act to vest certain intailed Lands, whereof Bowles Armistead, Gentleman, is seised, in Trustees, to be sold for payment of

¹ Dabney Carr, the author of these resolves, represented Louisa County. See Henry — Life of Henry, vol. I. pp. 161-162.

² Correspondence of this Committee follows the closing of this Session.

³ Hening's, VIII, p. 647. ⁴ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 654. ⁵ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 665.

of the Debts due from the Estate of his late father, William Armistead, Esquire, without any Amendment; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act for appointing Trustees for the Gingaskin Indians, without any Amendment; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Reslove for paying several sums of Money to Robert Bolling Junior, Esquire; and also,

⁵⁷ *The Council have agreed to the Reslove, for paying certain Expences incurred in and about apprehending and securing certain Criminals; and also,*

The Council have agreed to the Reslove, for paying four hundred and fifty Pounds per Annum to William Rind, the public Printer; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Reslove for paying a Salary to the keeper of the public Gaol; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Reslove for paying a Salary to the Organist; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act to establish and enlarge the Power of the Trustees of the Town of Richmond, in the County of Henrico, and for other Purposes,² with an Amendment, to which Amendment the Council desire the Concurrence of this House.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

The House proceeded to take the said Amendment into Consideration.

And the said Amendment was read and is as followeth, *viz.*

Page 2. line 19. after "Person," leave out to "Provided," in line 23, and insert "Inhabiting within the said Town, to raise or keep any Swine or Goats within the Limits thereof, and suffer the same to go at large therein, and if any Swine or Goats, so raised or kept, shall be found going or running at large, within the said Town, it shall and may be lawful to kill and destroy the same."

The said Amendment, being read a second Time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

⁵⁸ *Ordered*, that Mr Adams do carry the Bill to the Council, and acquaint them, that this House hath agreed to the Amendment made by them.

Mr Richard Henry Lee presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill for further continuing the A&t, intituled *An Act for the better regulating and disciplining the Militia*;³ and the same was received and read the first Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second Time.

Mr Henry Lee presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill for the Ease and Relief of the People, by paying the Burgesses in Money for this present Session of Assembly; and the same was received, and read the first Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second Time.

Ordered, that Mr Francis Lightfoot Lee, Mr Edmund Pendleton, and Mr Joseph Jones have leave to be absent from the service of this House for the remainder of the Session.

A bill to dock the intail of certain Lands, whereof Lewis Burwell, Gentleman, is seised, and for settling other Lands and Slaves to the same Uses, was read a second Time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to Mr Edmund Pendleton, Mr Whitinge, Mr Digges, Mr Nelson, Mr Treasurer, and Mr Lewis Burwell, of James City.

A Bill for establishing a better Method of bringing to Trial Persons concerned in forging or coining the Money Current in this Colony, was read a second Time.

A Motion was made, and the Question being put, that the Bill be engrossed.

It passed in the Negative.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill to prevent counterfeiting the Paper Money of other Colonies.

Mr Speaker left the Chair.

Mr Bland took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Mr

¹ Hening's VIII, p. 667.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 655.

³ *Ibid.*, VII, p. 93.

Mr Bland reported from the Committee, that they had gone through the Bill, and made several Amendments thereunto, which they had directed him to report, when the House will please to receive the same.

Ordered, that the Report be now received.

Mr Bland accordingly reported from the said Committee, the Amendments which the Committee had made to the Bill, and which they had directed him to Report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendments, in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendments were once read throughout, and then a second Time one by one, and, upon the Question severally put thereupon, were agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Bill, with the Amendments, be engrossed.

A Bill for the Ease and Relief of the People, by paying the Burgeesses in Money for this present Session of Assembly, was read a second Time.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

A Bill for further continuing the Act, intituled An Act for the better regulating and disciplining the Militia,⁶⁰ was read a second Time.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

An engrossed *Bill for appointing Commissioners for selling the Tobacco damaged in the public Warehouse for the Inspection of Tobacco at Aquia, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, was read the third Time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act for appointing Commissioners for selling the Tobacco damaged in the public Warehouse for the inspection of Tobacco, at Aquia, and for other purposes therein mentioned*.³

Ordered, that Mr Alexander do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Mr Edmund Pendleton reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands, whereof Lewis Burwell, Gentleman, is seised, and for settling other Lands and Slaves to the same Ufes was Committed, that the Committee had examined the Allegations of the Bill, and found the same to be true, and that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made several Amendments thereunto, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendments, in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendments were once read throughout and then a second Time, one by one, and upon the Question severally put thereupon, were agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Bill, with the Amendments, be engrossed.

An engrossed *Bill for making an Addition to the House appropriated to the use of the public Gaoler*, was read the Third Time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act for making an Addition to the House appropriated to the Use of the Public Gaoler*.³

Ordered, that Mr Nelson, do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

An engrossed *Bill for altering the Bounds between the Parishes of Dale and Manchester, in Chesterfield County*, was read the third Time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act for altering the Bounds between the Parishes of Dale and Manchester, in Chesterfield County*.⁴

Ordered that Mr Cary do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

An engrossed *Bill to amend the Act intituled An Act for erecting a Lighthouse on Cape-Henry*, was read the third Time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act to amend the Act intituled, An Act for erecting a Lighthouse on Cape-Henry*.⁵

Ordered, that Mr Harrison do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

And then the House adjourned til Tomorrow Morning eleven of the Clock.

Saturday

¹ Hening's, VII, p. 93.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 670.

³ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 662.

⁴ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 655.

⁵ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 652.

Saturday, the 13th of March, 13 Geo. III. 1773.

MR. *Bland* reported to the House, that the Governor having been waited on, pursuant to the Order of *Thursday* last, to know his Pleasure when he would be attended by this House, had been pleased to appoint to be attended upon *Monday* next, at one of the Clock in the Afternoon, in the Council Chamber.

Ordered, that *M^r King, M^r Richard Henry Lee, M^r Charles Carter, M^r Poythres, M^r Burnley, M^r Adams, and M^r Stubblefield* have leave to be absent from the Service of this House for the remainder of this Session.

An engrossed *Bill* to dock the intail of certain Lands, whereof *Lewis Burwell*, Gentleman, is seised, and for settling other Lands and Slaves to the same Uses, was read the third Time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act to dock the intail of certain Lands, whereof Lewis Burwell, Esquire, is seised, and for settling other Lands to the same Uses.*¹

Ordered, that *M^r Edmund Pendleton* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

A *Message* from the Council by *M^r Blair*:

M^r Speaker,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act for altering the Bounds between the Parishes of Dale and Manchester, in Chesterfield County, without any Amendment; and also,

⁶³ *The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act for appointing Commissioners for felling the Tobacco damaged in the public Warehouse, for the Inspection of Tobacco, at Aquia, and for other Purposes therein mentioned,² without any Amendment; and also,*

The Council have agreed to the Bill intituled An Act to Amend the Act, intituled An Act for erecting a Light-house on Cape-Henry,³ with an Amendment, to which Amendment the Council desire the Concurrence of this House; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Bill intituled, An Act for making an Addition to the House appropriated to the use of the public Gaoler,⁴ with an Amendment, to which Amendment the Council desire the Concurrence of this House.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

A *Petition* of the Vestrymen of the Parish of *Saint John*, in the County of *King William*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for felling the present Glebe of the said Parish, and purchasing another more convenient, or putting the Money out at Interest.

Ordered, that the Consideration of the said Petition be deferred til the next Session of General Assembly.

Ordered, that the standing Committee of Correspondence and inquiry, yesterday appointed, have power to nominate and employ a Clerk.

⁶⁴ An engrossed *Bill*, to prevent Counterfeiting the Paper Money of other Colonies, was read the third Time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act to prevent Counterfeiting the paper Money of other Colonies.*⁵

Ordered, that *M^r Bland* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

An engrossed *Bill*, for further continuing the *Act* intituled, *An Act for the better regulating and disciplining the Militia*,⁶ was read the third Time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act for further continuing the Act, intituled An Act for the better regulating and disciplining the Militia.*

Ordered,

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 663.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 670.

³ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 652.

⁴ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 662.

⁵ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 651.

⁶ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 503.

Ordered, that Mr *Harrison* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence. An engrossed Bill, for the Ease and Relief of the People, by paying the Burgeesses in Money for this present Session of Assembly was read the third Time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act for the Ease and Relief of the People, by paying the Burgeesses in Money, for this present Session of Assembly.*¹

Ordered, that Mr *Henry Lee* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

The House proceeded to take into Consideration the Amendment made by the Council to the Bill, intituled *An Act to amend the Act, intituled An Act for erecting a Lighthouse on Cape-Henry.*²

And the said Amendment was read and is as followeth, *viz.*

Line 1. leave out "tenth" and insert "twelfth" instead thereof.

The said Amendment being read a second Time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

65

Ordered, that Mr *Harrison* do carry the Bill to the Council, and acquaint them, that the House hath agreed to the Amendment made by them.

The House proceeded to take into Consideration the Amendment made by the Council to the Bill, intituled *An Act for making an Addition to the House appropriated to the use of the public Gaoler.*³

And the said Amendment was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Line 7. leave out "twenty feet square," and insert "thirty one feet in length, and of the height and width of the old House" instead thereof.

The said Amendment being read a second Time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that Mr *Nelson* do carry the Bill to the Council, and acquaint them that this House hath agreed to the Amendment made by them.

Resolved, that the several sums of Money following be paid to the several Officers of the General Assembly, *viz.*

To <i>George Wythe</i> , Clerk of the House of Burgeesses	£75.—.—
To <i>John Blair</i> , Esquire, Clerk of the General Assembly	40.—.—
To the Reverend <i>Thomas Price</i> , Chaplain,	20.—.—
To Mr <i>Francis Eppes</i> , Serjeant at Arms	40.—.—
To Mr <i>Edmund Pendleton</i> , junior Clerk of the Committee of Privileges and Elections	20.—.—
To Mr <i>Thomas Everard</i> , Clerk of the Committee for Courts of Justice	15.—.—
To the Door keeper of the Council	10.—.—
To <i>Robert Hyland</i>	
To <i>William Hicks</i>	
To <i>John Creagh</i>	
To <i>William Drinkard</i>	
	Door keepers to the House, 10 each
	40.—.—

Ordered, that Mr *Cary* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Ordered, that all such Claims and other Matters as were referred from the last to this Session of Assembly, and also all such as are certified to this Session, be referred to the Consideration of the next Session of Assembly.

Ordered, that the Call of the House be adjourned til *Monday* next.

A Message from the Council by Mr *Blair*:

Mr *Speaker*,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled *An Act to prevent counterfeiting the paper Money of other Colonies*,⁴ without any Amendment; and also,

The

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 671. The Burgeesses were first paid in money in 1723 — Hening's, IV, p. 136.

² Ibid., VIII, p. 652. ³ Ibid., VIII, p. 662. ⁴ Ibid., VIII, p. 651

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act for the Ease and Relief of the People, by paying the Burgeses in Money, for this prefent Session of Assembly,¹ without any Amendment; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Resolve for paying the Salaries of the Officers of the General Assembly; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof Lewis Burwell, Esquire, is seised, and for settling other Lands to the same Uses,² with an Amendment, to which Amendment the Council desire the Concurrence of this House.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

The House proceeded to take the said Amendment into Consideration.

And the said Amendment was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Line 27. leave out “*given and devised in and by the last Will and Testament of the Honourable Robert Carter, Esquire, deceased, to his Grandson,*” and insert “*granted by the Proprietor of the Northern Neck of Virginia to,*” instead thereof.

Ordered, that Mr Edmund Pendleton do carry the Bill to the Council, and acquaint them, that this House hath agreed to the Amendment made by them.

A Petition of several Persons, of the County of Accomack, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Roads and Navigation to the new erected Warehouse, for inspection of Tobacco, on *Guilford Creek*, are not so good as they are to another place, called *Finleys Point*; and therefore praying, that an inspection may be established at the latter place.

Ordered, that the Consideration of the said Petition be deferred til the next Session of General Assembly.

And then the House adjourned til Monday Morning next eleven of the Clock.

68 Monday. the 15th of March. 13 Geo. III. 1773.

A Message from the Governor by Mr Blair:

Mr Speaker,

The Governor is now ready to receive the Address of your House in the Council Chamber.

Accordingly Mr Speaker, with the House, went up; and being returned, he reported, that the House had attended the Governor with their Address, to which his Excellency was pleased to give this Answer.

Mr Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Burgeses,

As I have always made the Laws of the Country the rule of my Conduct, I acted in this Affair with the greatest Caution, and took the advice and assistance of Gentlemen, in whose Judgement, Candour, and Integrity I could confide. In apprehending and bringing to Justice the forgers of your paper Currency, I little imagined when I was endeavoring to punish the Guilty, that my Conduct could by any means be thought to endanger the safety of the Innocent. Permit me to say, that all Laws, doubtful in their Construction, must be interpreted by the Courts of Justice. If I have done amiss the same method will not be repeated; but if it should be determined to be regular, I shall continue to exercise the Powers I am invested with, whensoever the exigencies of Government, and the good of the Country requires such exertion; and under such Circumstances, I am persuaded that no one (even the most timid) will be under the least apprehension, that this proceeding may in future be drawn into Consequence or Example.

A

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 671

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 663

A Message from the Council by Mr Blair:

Mr Speaker,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled *An Act for further continuing the Act, entituled An Act for the better regulating and disciplining the Militia,¹ with some Amendments, to which Amendments the Council desire the Concurrence of this House.*

And then the Messenger withdrew.

The House proceeded to take the said Amendments into Consideration.

And the said *Amendments* were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

In the Title of the Bill, after "continuing," insert "and amending."

To the end of the 6th line add, "and amended."

Line 9th after "with" insert, "so much of."

Same line, after "Acts," insert, "as."

To the end of the same line, add, "not be contrary to this Act."

At the beginning of the 10th line insert, "shall."

At the end of the Bill, add, "And whereas in the said first recited Act, it is enacted, that the Commanding Officer, presiding at any Court Martial, shall administer the Oath to the other Members of the Court; but no Provision is therein made or direction given, for swearing the presiding Officer. Be it therefore enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, that the next Officer in Command, then present, shall first administer the Oath to the commanding Officer, who shall afterwards administer the same to the rest of the Officers of the Court. And whereas, by the Act made in the third Year of his present Majesty's Reign, intituled An Act for amending and further continuing the Act, for the better regulating and disciplining the Militia, All his Majesty's Justices of the Peace within this Colony, who have qualified themselves for their Offices by taking the Oaths by law appointed to be taken by Justices of Peace, and who are really and bona fide acting Justices of their respective Counties, are to be free and exempt from appearing or mustering, either at the private or General Musters; which exemption is found by experience to be extremely injurious and detrimental to the forming a regular and useful Militia: Be it therefore enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, that so much of the last recited Act as relates to the exemption of the Justices of the Peace from Mustering, be and the same is hereby declared to be repealed, and made void."

The first and second of the said Amendments, being severally read a second Time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

The four next *Amendments*, being severally read a second Time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, disagreed to by the House.

The subsequent *Amendment*, being read a second Time;

The following *Amendment* was proposed to be made thereunto:

To leave out the Words, "And whereas, by the Act made in the third Year of his present Majesty's Reign, intituled An Act for amending and further continuing the Act for the better regulating and disciplining the Militia, All his Majesty's Justices of the Peace within this Colony, who have qualified themselves for their Offices, by taking the Oaths by Law appointed to be taken by Justices of Peace, and who are really and bona fide acting Justices of their respective Counties, are to be free and exempt from appearing or mustering, either at the private or General Musters; which exemption is found by Experience to be extremely injurious and detrimental to the forming a regular and usefull Militia: Be it therefore enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, that so much of the last recited Act, as relates to the exemption of the Justices of the Peace from Mustering, be and the same is hereby declared to be repealed, and made void."

And the same was, upon the *Question* put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Then the said *Amendment*, thus amended, was, upon the *Question* put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered,

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 503

Ordered, that M^r *Bland* do carry the Bill to the Council, and acquaint them, that this House hath agreed to the first and second of the said Amendments, by them proposed to the said Bill; that this House doth disagree to the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth of the said Amendments; and that this House doth agree to the last of the said Amendments, with an Amendment to the said last Amendment, to which Amendment to the Amendment this House doth desire the Concurrence of the Council.

72 A Message from the Council by M^r *Blair*:

M^r *Speaker*,

The Council do insist upon the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth Amendments by them proposed to the Bill, intituled An Act for further continuing the Act, intituled An Act for the better regulating and disciplining the Militia; disagreed to by the House, and desire the House will recede from their disagreement thereunto; and also the Council do disagree to the Amendment proposed by this House to the last Amendment made by the Council to the said Bill, and desire this House will agree to the same without any Amendment.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Resolved, that this House doth adhere to their disagreement to the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth Amendments made by the Council to the Bill, intituled *An Act for further continuing the Act, intituled An Act for the better regulating and disciplining the Militia*, and doth also adhere to their Amendment to the last Amendment made by the Council to the said Bill.

Ordered, that a Message be sent to the Council, to acquaint them, that this House doth adhere to their disagreement to the said third, fourth, fifth and sixth Amendments, and to their said Amendment to the Amendment; and that M^r *Bland* do carry the said Message.

M^r *Digges* reported from the Committee, appointed to examine the enrolled Bills and Resolves, that the Committee had examined the enrolled Bills and Resolves, and 78 rectified such Mistakes as were found therein, and that they are truly enrolled.

Ordered, that M^r *Digges* do carry the enrolled Bills and Resolves to the Council for their Inspection.

A Message from the Council by M^r *Blair*:

M^r *Speaker*,

The Council have inspected the enrolled Bills and Resolves, and are satisfied they are truly enrolled.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

A Message from the Governor by M^r *Blair*:

M^r *Speaker*,

The Governor commands this House to attend his Excellency immediately in the Council Chamber.

Accordingly M^r *Speaker*, with the House went up to attend his Excellency in the Council Chamber, where his Excellency was pleased to give his Assent to the several public and private Bills and Resolves following, viz.

*An Act for the better securing the public Credit of this Colony.*²

*An Act to prevent counterfeiting the Paper Money of other Colonies.*³

*An Act to Amend the Act, intituled An Act for erecting a Lighthouse on Cape Henry.*⁴

*An Act for establishing a Warehouse for the inspection of Tobacco, in the Town of Manchester.*⁵

*An Act for altering the Bounds between the Parishes of Dale and Manchester, in Chesterfield County.*⁶

An

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 503

⁵ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 654

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 647

⁶ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 655

³ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 651

⁴ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 652

An Act to establish and enlarge the Power of the Trustees of the Town of Richmond, ⁷⁴ in the County of Henrico, and for other purposes.¹

An Act for altering the Court Day of the County of Loudoun.²

An Act for appointing two new Ferries, and discontinuing a former Ferry.³

An Act for building a bridge over Nottoway River, from the Land of Samuel Brown, by Subscription.⁴

An Act for appointing Trustees for the Gingaskin Indians.⁵

An Act for making an Addition to the House appropriated to the use of the public Gaoler.⁶

An Act to dock the intail of certain Lands, whereof Lewis Burwell, Esquire, is seised, and for settling other Lands to the same Uses.⁷

An Act to dock the intail of part of a Tract of Land, whereof John Tazewell is seised, and for settling Slaves, of greater value, to the same Uses.⁸

An Act to vest certain intailed Lands, whereof Bowles Armistead, Gentleman, is seised, in Trustees, to be sold for payment of the Debts due from the Estate of his Late Father, William Armistead, Esquire.⁹

An Act for appointing Commissioners for selling the Tobacco damaged in the public Warehouse for the inspection of Tobacco, at Aquia, and for other purposes therein mentioned.¹⁰

An Act for the Ease and Relief of the People, by paying the Burgeesses in Money, for this present Session of Assembly.¹¹

A Resolve for paying a sum of Money to Robert Donald.

75

A Resolve for paying several sums of Money to Nathaniel Hunt, and others.

A Resolve for paying several sums of Money to certain Commissioners.

A Resolve for paying a certain sum of Money to John Lightfoot.

A Resolve for paying a Salary to the Keeper of the public Gaol.

A Resolve for paying a Salary to the Organist.

A Resolve for paying several sums of Money to Robert Bolling, junior, Esquire.

A Resolve for paying four hundred and fifty Pounds per Annum to William Rind, the public Printer.

A Resolve for paying certain expences incurred in and about apprehending and securing certain Criminals.

A Resolve for paying the Salaries of the Officers of the General Assembly.

After which his Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to the Council and this House, as followeth, *viz.*

Gentlemen of the Council, Mr Speaker, and

Gentlemen of the House of Burgeesses,

As you have now gone through the Busines for which you were assembled, and having nothing farther to propose to you at present, it becomes necessary to put an end to this Session of Assembly; And I recommend to you to use your endeavours, in your several Counties, to abolish that Spirit of Gaming, which I am afraid but too generally prevails among the ⁷⁶ People, and to substitute in its place a love of Agriculture, and attention to their private Affairs, by which you will render a most essential Service to them and your Country. I do prorogue You to the third Thursday in June next, and you are accordingly prorogued to Thursday the seventeenth of June next.

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 655

² Ibid., VIII, p. 658

³ Ibid., VIII, p. 658

⁴ Ibid., VIII, p. 660

⁵ Ibid., VIII, p. 661

⁶ Ibid., VIII, p. 662

⁷ Ibid., VIII, p. 663

⁸ Ibid., VIII, p. 665

⁹ Ibid., VIII, p. 667

¹⁰ Ibid., VIII, p. 670

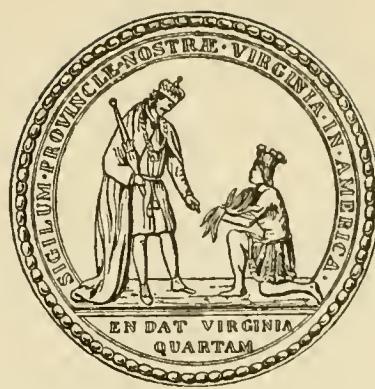
¹¹ Ibid., VIII, p. 671

MINUTES

of the

Committee of Correspondence

1773



By the House of Burgesses, Friday, March 12th, 1773.

WHEREAS, the Minds of his Majesty's faithful Subjects in this Colony have been much disturbed, by various Rumours and Reports of Proceedings tending to deprive them of their ancient, legal, and constitutional Rights; and whereas, the Affairs of this Colony are frequently connected with those of *Great Britain*, as well as of the neighboring Colonies, which renders a Communication of Sentiments necessary: *In Order*, therefore, to remove the Uneasiness, and to quiet the Minds of the People, as well as for the other good Purposes above mentioned,

Be it resolved, that a standing *Committee of Correspondence and Inquiry* be appointed, to consist of eleven Persons, *to wit*, the honourable *Peyton Randolph*, Esquire, *Robert Carter Nicholas*, *Richard Bland*, *Richard Henry Lee*, *Benjamin Harrison*, *Edmund Pendleton*, *Patrick Henry*, *Dudley Digges*, *Dabney Carr*, *Archibald Cary*, and *Thomas Jefferson*, Esquires, any six of whom to be a Committee; whose Business it shall be to obtain the most early and authentic Intelligence of all such Acts and Resolutions of the British Parliament, or Proceedings of Administration, as may relate to or affect the British Colonies in America; and to keep up and maintain a Correspondence, and Communication, with our Sister Colonies, respecting these important Considerations; and the Result of such their Proceedings, from Time to Time to lay before this House.

Resolved, that it be an Instruction to the said Committee, that they do without Delay, inform themselves particularly of the Principles and Authority on which was constituted a *Court of Enquiry*, said to have been lately held in *Rhode Island*, with Powers to transport Persons accused of Offences committed in *America* to Places beyond the Seas to be tried.

Resolved, that the *Speaker* of this House do transmit to the *Speakers* of the different Assemblies of the British Colonies on this Continent Copies of the said Resolutions and desire that they will lay them before their respective Assemblies, and request them, to appoint some Person, or Persons, of their respective Bodies, to communicate from Time to Time with the said Committee.

MINUTES

of the

Committee of Correspondence

² **A** T a Meeting of the Committee of Correspondence and Inquiry at Williamsburg on Saturday, the 13th of March, 1773.

Prefent

The honourable <i>Peyton Randolph</i> , Esquire,	}	Efquires.	
<i>Robert Carter Nicholas</i> ,			<i>Dudley Digges</i> ,
<i>Richard Bland</i> ,			<i>Archibald Cary</i> ,
<i>Benjamin Harrison</i> ,			<i>Dabney Carr</i>
<i>Richard Henry Lee</i> ,			<i>Thomas Jefferson</i> ,

Resolved, that *John Tazewell* be appointed Clerk to this Committee and he is to keep a fair Record of the Proceedings thereof from Time to Time.

Peyton Randolph, Robert Carter Nicholas and Dudley Digges, Esquires, are appointed a select corresponding Committee, and they are directed to request of the *Speakers* of the Assemblies for the Colonies of *Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York* a full Account of the Principles and Authority, on which was constituted a Court of Enquiry said to have been lately held in the Colony of *Rhode Island*, together with an authentic Copy of their Commission and Proceedings.

Also to procure a Copy of an Act of Parliament passed in the Present Year of his Majesty's Reign, intituled “*An Act for the better preserving his Majesty's Dock-Yards, Magazines, Ships, Ammunition and Stores*,”¹ and of all other Acts of Parliament which now are or hereafter may be passed relating to the Affairs of the British Colonies on the Continent of America, and Copies of the Journals of the House of Commons from——— to the Present Time, as also of their Proceedings in future Sessions of Parliament.

The corresponding *Members* above mentioned are empowered to call Meetings of this Committee whenever any Emergency may require their immediate Attention.

Ordered that Copies of the Act of Assembly intituled “*An Act for making it Felony to forge the Paper Currency of the Other Colonies*”² be immediately transmitted to the Speakers of the several Assemblies on the Continent.

³ At a Meeting of the Select Committee of Correspondence at Williamsburg on Tuesday the 6th of April, 1773.

Prefent

The honourable *Peyton Randolph*, Esquire,
Robert Carter Nicholas & Dudley Digges, Esqs.

The Committee came to a Resolution to correspond with Mr *John Norton* of *London*, merchant, and directed a Letter to be prepared requesting him to send them a Copy of an Act of Parliament passed in the present Year of his Majesty's Reign intituled “*An Act for the better preserving his Majesty's Dock-Yards, Magazines, Ships, Ammunition and Stores*,” the Journals of the House of Commons from the Session in 1765-6 and all other

¹ Statutes at Large of Eng. & Great Britain, VII, p. 156

² Hening's, VIII, p. 651

other Acts of Parliament and Proceedings of Administration which may affect this or any of the Colonies of the Continent.

A Letter to Mr Norton being accordingly prepared, was presented to the Committee, read and agreed to, as follows:

Williamsburg, Virginia, April 6th, 1773.

SIR:

At a late Session of our Assembly, the House of Burgesses judged it necessary to enter into several Resolves, of which we take the Liberty of enclosing you a Copy, and at a General Meeting of the Committee, they thought proper to appoint us, three Members of their Body A select corresponding Committee with an Injunction that we should take the earliest Opportunity of procuring such Acts of Parliament and Journals of the British House of Commons and all other authentic Intelligencies, which may answer the Expectations and further the Views of the House of Burgesses.

Upon considering of a Person in England with whom we could correspond with Advantage, our Attention was presently drawn to you, as a Gentleman of Integrity and well known Attachment to the Interest of this Colony. We therefore desire the Favor of you to procure and transmit to us by the first good Opportunity, a Copy of an Act of Parliament passed in the present Year of his Majesty's Reign, intituled "An Act for the better preserving his Majesty's Dock-Yards, Magazines, Ships, Ammunition and Stores" and of all other Acts or Resolutions of Parliament or Proceedings of Administration lately passed or entered into, or which may hereafter take Place by which all or any of the Colonies on the Continent of America may be either immediately or eventually affected.

The Treasurer some Years ago, by Order of the House of Burgesses, imported Journals in folio, down to the Session of Parliament in the Year 1765-6 inclusive, and as we are directed to have the Collection made compleat and continued so from Time to Time, we desire that you will also send us the whole Journals at large from the Period above mentioned. We shall hope to hear from you by the first Ship, and desire that your Letters on these Subjects may be directed to Peyton Randolph, Esq:

We are Sir, your mo: ob^t. Serv^{ts}.

Peyton Randolph.

Robt. Carter Nicholas.

Dudley Digges.

Ordered, that the said Letter and a Duplicate thereof be sent by the first Ships.

Ordered, that Letters be prepared to the Speakers of the several Assemblies for the Colonies of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut & New York requesting an Account of the Principles and Authority on which was constituted a Court of Enquiry said to have been lately held in Rhode Island, together with an authentic Copy of their Commission & Proceedings.

A Letter was accordingly prepared to the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the Province of Massachusetts Bay which being read and approved of by the Committee is as follows:

Williamsburg, Virginia, April 6th 1773.

SIR:

The Speaker of the House of Burgesses of this Colony having transmitted to you a Copy of the Resolutions entered into by their House at their last Session, constituting a Committee of Correspondence & Enquiry, permit us to refer you to those Resolutions. That Committee have appointed us a Select Corresponding Committee, and in pursuance of Direction we are now to request the Favour of you to transmit us a full Account of the Principles and Authority on which was constituted a Court of Enquiry said to have been lately held in the Colony of Rhode Island, with Powers to transport Persons accused of Offences committed in America, to Places beyond the Seas to be tried, together with an Authentic Copy of their Commission & Proceedings.

We

We have it also in Command to transmit you a Copy of an Act of our Assembly made at their last Session to prevent counterfeiting the Paper Currency of other Colonies. This Colony having of late Years sustained the greatest Injury by having their paper Currency forged, and it having been represented to our General Assembly, that the principal Author of this Mischief is an Inhabitant of North Carolina, they judged it necessary as well to prevent such dangerous Practices in future, as to shew their Regard for other Colonies to pass this Act. Our Governor will transmit Copies of this Law to the different Governors on the Continent, with a Request that they would be pleased to recommend it to their several Assemblies to enact Laws of the same Import respecting Virginia, and we are to request your Countenance and Assistance upon so important an Occasion. We have the Honor to be very respectfully,

Sir, your mo: ob^t. Serv^{ts}.,

Peyton Randolph.

No. Carter Nicholas.

Dudley Digges.

Also a Letter of the same Import to the Speaker of the General Assembly of the Colony of *Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England*.

Also to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Colony of Connecticut.

Also to the Speaker of the General Assembly of the Colony of New York.

Ordered, that the said Letters be sent by the next Post.

Copy of a Letter agreed to by the Committee and ordered to be sent To the Speakers of

of The Commons House of Assembly of the Province of *South Carolina*.

of The House of Representatives for the Province of *Pennsylvania*.

of The House of Delegates of the Province of *Maryland*.

of The House of Representatives of the Colony of *North Carolina*.

of The House of Representatives of the Government of the Counties of *New Castle, Kent & Sussex upon Delaware*.

of the Representatives of the Colony of *New Jersey*.

of the House of Representatives of the Province of *New Hampshire*.

Williamsburg, Virginia, April 6th 1773.

SIR:

This Colony having of late Years sustained the greatest Injury by having their Paper Currency forged, and it having been reported to our General Assembly at their last Session, that the supposed Principal Author of this Mischief is an Inhabitant of North Carolina, they judged it necessary as well to prevent such dangerous Practices in future, as to shew their Regard for the other Colonies, to pass an Act to prevent counterfeiting the Paper Currency of other Colonies. Our Governor will transmit Copies of this Act to the different Governors on the Continent with a Request that they would be pleased to recommend to their different Assemblies to enact Laws of the same Import respecting Virginia. We have it in Command to furnish the Speakers of the different Assemblies with the like Copies and to request the Favour of their Countenance and Assistance in accomplishing our Wishes upon so important an Occasion. We therefore take the Liberty of inclosing you a Copy of the Act. We have the Honor to be very respectfully,

Sir, your mo: ob^t. Serv^{ts}.,

Peyton Randolph.

Robert Carter Nicholas.

Dudley Digges.

LETTERS RECEIVED

by the

Committee of Correspondence

1773

LETTERS RECEIVED

by the

Committee of Correspondence

1773

New York.

New York, April¹ 14, 1773.

SIR:

Your Letter of the 19th Inst¹, to the Speaker of the General Assembly of this Colony, I this Day had the Pleasure to receive, together with a Copy of the Resolves entered into by the hon^{ble} the House of Representatives of the Burgeesses of the Colony of Virginia; both which shall be laid before our Assembly as soon as they are convened. Which do not imagine will be before the latter End of this or the Beginning of next Year, unless they should be called upon some extraordinary Occasion.

I have the honour to be with Regard

Sir, y^r most obed^t humb. Serv^t.

John Cruger.

To the honb^{le} Peyton Randolph, Esq. Speaker of the House of Burgeesses of the Colony of Virginia.

New York, April¹ 24, 1773.

GENT:

I had the Honour of your Letter of the 6th Inst¹ acquainting me that the Committee of Correspondence had appointed you a Select Corresponding Committee, and that in Pursuance of their Direction you request the Favour of me to transmit you a full Account of the Principles and Authority on which was constituted the Court of Enquiry said to have been lately held in the Colony of Rhode Island, with Power to transport Persons accused of Offences committed in America, to places beyond Sea to be tried, together with an authentic Copy of their Commission and Proceedings. As I have received no Information of the Nature and Purport of the Commission, nor any Account of the Proceedings had thereon, but such as has been communicated through the Channel of News-papers, it is not in my Power to give you an authentic Copy of either. We have no Committee of Correspondence of the same kind with yours appointed, but as soon as our Assembly meets shall lay your Letter before them.

I herewith transmit you a Law of this Colony which I imagine will answer the good purposes intended by that passed by your Assembly their last Session, I have the honor to be with Regard,

Gent. your mo: ob^t. S^t,

John Cruger.

To Peyton Randolph, Ro. C. Nicholas & Dudley Digges, Esquires.

Copy of the Act inclosed.²

Chap. CCCLXXVI.

An Act to make it Felony without Benefit of Clergy, to counterfeit the Bills of Credit of any of his Majesty's Colonies, which pass in Payment in the Colony of New York.—passed 3^d July, 1766.

Whereas, many evil disposed and wicked Persons have lately counterfeited and circulated in this Colony large Parcels of Bills, in Imitation of the true Bills of Credit struck,

¹ Missing.

² Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1773.

struck, emitted and issued in the Colony of *New-Jersey*; and have passed the same as good and true Bills of Credit, to the great Hurt and Damage of his Majesty's Subjects of this Colony for prevention whereof and of other like Mischiefs for the future.

1. *Be it enacted* by his Excellency the Governor, the Council and the General Assembly, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same, that if any Person or Persons shall hereafter counterfeit any true Bill or Bills of Credit now or which shall hereafter be struck, emitted and issued in the said Colony of *New-Jersey*; or the Bill or Bills of Credit now or hereafter to be struck, emitted & issued in any other of his Majesty's Colonies; or shall alter any the said Bills of Credit, so that they shall appear to be of greater Value than the same, by the law of such respective Colony are, shall, or may be intended to pass for; or shall pass or give in Payment, any such Counterfeit or altered Bill as aforesaid, knowing the same to be counterfeit or altered, every Person who shall so counterfeit or alter any the said Bills of Credit, or knowingly pass or give in Payment any such counterfeit or altered Bill as aforesaid, shall be guilty of Felony, and being thereof convicted, shall suffer the Pains of Death, as in Cases of Felony, without the Benefit of Clergy: Any Law Usage or Custom to the Contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Rhode Island.

New Port, ¹ May 15th 1773. ³

SIR:

I had the Pleasure of receiving your Favour of the 19th of March with the Resolves of the House of Burgesses of Virginia; which with the Letter from your Committee of Correspondence I laid before the House of Deputies of this Colony at their Meeting the last Week.

The House thoroughly convinced that a firm Union of the Colonies is absolutely necessary for the Preservation of their ancient, legal and constitutional Rights, and that the Measures proposed by your House of Burgesses will greatly promote so desirable an End, came, Nemine contradicente, into the Resolutions of which I have the honor now to enclose you a Copy.

I am desired to inform you that the Committee appointed by our House of Deputies, will, as soon as possible, transmit to the Committee of Correspondence of Virginia, the best Accounts they shall be able to obtain, respecting the Court of Inquiry lately held in this Colony.

I am with great Respect, y^r mo: ob^t S^t

Metcalf Bowler.

Resolves inclosed.²

May 7th 1773. In the House of Deputies.

Resolved, that a standing Committee of Correspondence and Inquiry be appointed to consist of seven Persons, *to wit* the honorable *Stephen Hopkins*, Esquire, *Metcalf Bowler*, *Moses Brown*, *John Cole*, *William Bradford*, *Henry Ward*, and *Henry Merchant* Esq^r, any four of whom to be a Committee whose Business it shall be to obtain the most early and authentick Intelligence of all such Acts and Resolutions of the British Parliament or Proceedings of Administration as may relate to or affect the British Colonies in America, and to keep up and maintain a Correspondence and Communication with our Sister Colonies respecting these important Considerations and the Result of such their Proceedings from time to Time to lay before this House.

Voted P^r Ord^r J. LYNDON, Cler.

The above written is a true Copy of a Vote of the House of Deputies of Lower House of Assembly of the Colony of Rhode Island.

teste JOSIAS LYNDON, Cler.

May 7th 1773. In the House of Deputies.³

Whereas, this House hath appointed a Committee of Correspondence with Committees of the other Colonies in North America respecting the Rights and Privileges of the

¹ Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1773.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

the Colonies &c. It is therefore resolved by this House, that his honor the Governor be requested to deliver the said Committees a Copy of his Commission, as one of the Judges of the Court of Enquiry constituted from Home and said to be held in this Colony, and of all such other papers as were laid before the said Court as may be consistent with his honor as Governor of this Colony.

Voted p^r Ord^r J. LYNDON, Cler.

A true *Copy* of a Vote of the House of Deputies or lower House of Assembly of the Colony of *Rhode-Island*.

tewe JOSIAS LYNDON, Cler.

May 7th 1773. In the House of Deputies.¹

Resolved, that the *Speaker* of this House be requested to write to the *Speaker* of the House of Burgesses in *Virginia*, and to all other *Speakers* of Assemblies in North America, informing them of the Proceedings of this House relating to the Preservation of the Rights of the Colonies.

Voted Pr Order J. LYNDON, Cler.

The above written is a true *Copy* of the Vote of the House of Deputies or lower House of Assembly of the Colony of *Rhode Island*.

tewe JOSIAS LYNDON, Cler.

New Hampshire.

Portsmouth, New Hampshire, ² 27 May, 1773.

⁶ SIR:

Mess^{rs} Randolph, Nicholas and Digges agreeable favour of the 6th April, 1773, with a Copy of an Act against forging your Paper Currency, and a Letter dated Mar. 19th 1773, unsigned inclosing the Resolves of the honorable House of Burgesses of Virginia, I had the honor to receive.

And on the first meeting of our Assembly I took the earliest Opportunity to lay those interesting Papers before them; whose unanimous direction I have to present their Thanks to, and assure your honorable House, that in every constitutional Plan for securing the Rights of British America, and removing the Present Infringements thereon, our Sister Colonies may rely we sincerely join — having no wish for ourselves of an exclusive Nature in those Matters, ever looking on the whole, as embarked in the same common Bottom, and so represented it in an Address to Lord Dartmouth, at our first meeting after his appointment for American Affairs.

The House have appointed a Committee for the proposed Purpose of Communication; and flatter ourselves that some mean may yet be hit on, for restoring the mutual Confidence once subsisting between Great Britain & the American Provinces. The Act proposed to prevent counterfeiting the Paper Money of the Colonies of British America, the House of Assembly determine to take into Consideration and wish, and wish such Laws may be enacted as will effectually prevent such pernicious Practices in future. I have the honor to be

Your most Humble Servant,

J. Wentworth.

Resolve incloſed.¹

Province of New Hampshire.

In the House of Representatives May 27. 1773.

Resolved and voted, that a standing Committee of Correspondence and Inquiry be appointed to consist of seven Persons viz: the honorable John Wentworth, Esq.; John Sherburne, William Parker, John Giddinge, Jacob Sheafe, Christopher Toppan and John Pickering, Esquires, any four of whom to be a Committee, whose Business it shall be to obtain the most early and authentick Intelligence of all such Acts and Resolutions of the British Parliament, or Proceedings of Administration, as may relate to or affect the

British

¹ Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1773.

² Missing.

British Colonies in *America*; and to keep up and maintain a Correspondence and Communication with our Sister Colonies, respecting these important Considerations; and the Result of such their Proceedings from Time to Time to lay before this House.

Extracted from the *Journals* of the House of Representatives of the Province of *New Hampshire*.

attest: WILLIAM PARKER. Cler.

Massachusetts Bay.

Province of Massachusetts Bay¹ June 3^d., 1773.

SIR:

The very judicious and important Resolves entered into by the House of Burgesses of his Majesty's most ancient Colony of Virginia on the 12th Mar: last, together with your obliging Letter inclosing the same, have been laid before the house of Representatives of this Province.

The Wisdom of the Measures proposed in those Resolves, and the great and good Effects that may reasonably be expected to flow from them, not only to the Colonies but the Parent State, were so obvious, that the House immediately adopted them; and appointed a Committee to keep up and maintain a free Communication with Virginia and the Rest of the Sister Colonies.

That there has been long a settled Plan to subvert the Political Constitutions of these Colonies and to introduce arbitrary Power, cannot in the opinion of this House admit of Doubt.

Those who have aimed to enslave us, like a Band of brothers, have ever been united in their Councils and their Conduct. To this they owe their Success. Are they not in this Regard worthy Imitation? Here it is praise worthy to be instructed even by an Enemy.

The Object which the Conspirators against our Rights seem of late to have had much in View, has been either to lull the Colonies into a State of Profound Sleep and Security, which is forever the Forerunner of Slavery; or to foment Divisions among them. How necessary then, how important is it to counteract and defeat them in this fatal Design? To awaken and fix the Attention of all to the Common Danger — to open & maintain an uninterrupted Intercourse among the Colonies, that all may be fully apprised of the true State and Circumstances of each, and that the Councils of the whole may be united in some effectual Measures for restoring the Publik Liberty.

That this may be the happy Effect of the truly laudable and generous Design of the House of Burgesses of Virginia is the most ardent Wish, and it shall be the Object of the Attention of this House.

In the Name and by the Order of the House I have the Honor to be with strict truth and Regard, Sir,

your most obedient humble Servant,

Thomas Cushing.
Speaker.

Resolves inclosed.²

Province of Massachusetts Bay.

In the House of Representatives May 27. 1773.

Whereas, the Speaker hath communicated to this House a Letter from the truly respectable House of Burgesses in his Majesty's Ancient Colony of *Virginia*, inclosing a Copy of the Resolves entered into by them on the 12th of *March* last, and requesting that a Committee of this House may be appointed to communicate from Time to Time, with a corresponding Committee then appointed by the said House of Burgesses in *Virginia*.

And whereas, this House is fully sensible of the Necessity and Importance of an Union of the several Colonies in *America*, at a Time when it clearly appears that the Rights

¹ Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1773.

² Missing.

Rights and Liberties of all are systematically invaded; in Order that the joint Wisdom & of the whole may be employed in consulting their common Safety.

Resolved, that this House have a very grateful Sense of the Obligations they are under to the House of Burgesses in *Virginia*, for the Vigilance, firmness and Wisdom which they have discovered at all Times in Support of the Rights and Liberties of the American Colonies; and do heartily concur with them in their said judicious and spirited Resolves.

Resolved, that a standing Committee of Correspondence and Enquiry be appointed to consist of fifteen Members, any eight of whom to be a quorum; whose Business it shall be, to obtain the most early and authentic Intelligence of all such Acts and Resolutions of the British Parliament, or proceedings of Administration, as may relate to, or affect the British Colonies in *America*; and to keep up and maintain a Correspondence and Communication with our Sister Colonies respecting these important Considerations; and the Result of such their Proceedings from Time to Time to lay before the House.

Resolved, that it be an Instruction to the said Committee, that they do, without Delay, inform themselves particularly of the Principles and Authority on which was constituted a Court of Enquiry, held in *Rhode Island*, said to be vested with Powers to transport Persons accused of Offences committed in *America*, to Places beyond the Seas.

Resolved, that the said Committee be further instructed to prepare and Report to this House a Draught of a very respectable Answer to the Letters received from the Speaker of the honorable House of Burgesses of *Virginia*, and the Speaker of the honorable House of Representatives of the Colony of *Rhode Island*: also a circular Letter to the Speakers of the several other Houses of Assembly on the Continent, inclosing the aforesaid Resolves; and requesting them to lay the same before their respective Assemblies, in Confidence that they will readily and cheerfully comply with the wise and salutary Resolves of the House of Burgesses of *Virginia*.

Then the House immediately made Choice of the following Gentlemen to be the Committee of Correspondence & Communication with the other Colonies. *viz.*

Mr Speaker, Mr Samuel Adams, honble John Hancock, Esq: Mr William Phillips, Captain William Heath, honble Joseph Hawley, Esq; honble James Warren, Esq; Richard Derby, Junr Esq; Mr Eldridge Gerry, Jerethmeel Bowers, Esqr Jedediah Foster, Esq; Daniel Leonard, Esq; Capt. Thomas Gardner, Capt. Jonathan Greenleaf, and James Prescott Esqr

A true Copy.

Attest. SAMUEL ADAMS, Cler.

Georgia.

Savannah, ¹. in Georgia 5th June, 1773.

SIR:

I had the honor of yours of the 19th March, enclosing a Copy of the Resolves entered into by the House of Burgesses of *Virginia*, upon so interesting a Subject as that of an Attempt to deprive his Majesty's faithful Subjects in *America* of their ancient and constitutional Rights, by transporting Persons accused of Offences, beyond the Seas, to be tried; thereby depriving us of that invaluable Blessing of determining the same by the Oaths of honest and lawful men of our own Vicinage.

I am also favoured with yours M^r Nicholas & M^r Digges joint letter of the 6th of April, inclosing the Copy of an Act of your Colony to prevent the Counterfeiting the paper Money of other Colonies, a Practice hitherto carried on with great Success, but highly injurious, and calls aloud for the Interposition of the Legislature; both which Matters I shall take care to lay before our House of Representatives, and am hopeful they will join in these and every other Measure, that may tend to the Benefit & advantage of *America*.

I have the honor to be respectfully

Sir, y^r mo: ob^r S^t

Willm. Young.

Peyton Randolph, Esq.

Connecticut.

¹ Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1773.

Connecticut.

Fairfield, in Connecticut¹ 24 June 1773. 10

SIR:

I have in command from the House of the Representatives of this Colony to acknowledge the Receipt of your fav^r of the 19th March last, together with the Resolutions of the patriotic House of Burgesses of the Colony of Virginia, which came to my hand in May last, when the Assembly of this Colony was sitting, which, without Delay I communicated to the House of Representatives of this Colony and received their Commands to transmit to you, the Resolutions they came into thereupon, and request you as early as may be, to lay them before that honorable house, by which they will see how readily they approved of chearfully adopted the Measures proposed to them, and have appointed a Committee of Correspondence as requested, to and by whom matters relative to the general Interest of the Colonies may be communicated.

They have expresssed themselves so fully in the Matters, as leave me no Room to add any Thing but

that I have the honor to be, with great Truth

Sir, your mo: ob^t humble Serv^t

—Ebenezer Silliman.

To the honorable Speaker of the House of Burgesses in Virginia.

Resolves inclosed.².

In the House of Representatives of the Colony of Connecticut.

Friday, the 21st May 13 Geo. 3d, 1773.

M^r Speaker having laid before the House, a Letter from the Speaker of, and certain Resolutions entered into by the House of Burgesses of the Colony of Virginia, on the 12th of March last, Viz:

Whereas, the Minds of his Majesty's faithful Subjects in this Colony, have been much disturbed by various Rumors and Reports of Proceedings, tending to deprive them of their ancient legal and constitutional Rights.

And whereas, the Affairs of this Colony are frequently connected with those of Great Britain, as well as of the neighboring Colonies which renders a Communication of Sentiments necessary. In order therefore to remove the Uneasiness and quiet the Minds of the People, as well as for the other good Purposes above mentioned:

Be it Resolved, that a standing Committee of Correspondence and Inquiry be appointed to consist of eleven Persons to wit, the honorable Peyton Randolph, Esquire, Robert Carter Nicholas, Richard Bland, Richard Henry Lee, Benjamin Harrison, Edmund Pendleton, Patrick Henry, Dudley Digges, Dabney Carr, Archibald Cary and Thomas Jefferson, esquires, any six of whom to be a Committee, whose Business it shall be to obtain the most early and authentic Intelligence, of all such Acts and Resolutions of the British Parliament or Proceedings of Administration, as may relate to or affect the British Colonies in America, and to keep up and maintain a Correspondence and Communication with our Sister Colonies, respecting these important Considerations, & the Result of such their Proceedings from Time to Time to lay before this House.

Resolved, that it be an Instruction to the said Committee that they do, without Delay, inform themselves particularly of the principles and Authority, on which was constituted a Court of Inquiry, said to have been lately held in Rhode Island, with Powers to transport Persons accused of Offences committed in America to Places beyond the Seas to be tried.

And further resolving, that the Speaker of the said House of Burgesses, do transmit to the Speakers of the different Assemblies of the British Colonies on this Continent, Copies of the said Resolutions and desire that they will lay them before their respective Assemblies, and request them to appoint some Person or Persons of their respective Bodies to communicate from time to time with their said Committee.

This

¹ Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1773. ² Missing.

This House taking into Consideration the Contents of the said Letter, the aforesaid ¹² Resolutions and the Reasons on which they are founded, are of the opinion that they are weighty & important in their Nature and Design, calculating and tending to produce happy and salutary Effects, in securing and supporting the ancient legal constitutional Rights of this and the Colonies in general, do therefore approve of and adopt the Measure.

And thereupon *resolved*, that a standing Committee of Correspondence and Inquiry be appointed to consist of nine Persons, to wit, the honorable Ebenezer Silliman, Esq., William Williams, Benjamin Payne, Samuel Holden Parsons, Nathaniel Wayles, Silas Deane, Samuel Bishop, Joseph Trumbull, and Erastus Wolcott, Esquires, whose Busineſſ it ſhall be to obtain all ſuch Intelligence and to keep up and maintain a Correspondence and Communication with our Sister Colonies reſpeſting the important Considerations mentioned & expreſſed in the aforesaid Resolutions of the patriotic Houſe of Burgeſſes of the Colony of Virginia, and the Reſult of ſuch their Proceedings from Time to Time to lay before this Houſe.

Resolved, that the Speaker of this houſe do tranſmit to the Speakers of the different Asſemblyſ of the British Colonies of this Continent, Copies of theſe Resolutions, and request that they will come into ſimilār Meaſures, and communicate from Time to Time with ſaid Committee, on all Matters wherein the Common Welfare and Safety of the Colonies are concerned.

The foregoing *Resolutions* being feverally read a third Time, were on the Question put, agreed to by the Houſe.

A true *Copy* extracted from the Journals.

Attest. W^m. WILLIAMS, Cler. D. R.

John Norton.

¹³ The honb^{les} Peyton Randolph, }
Rob^t Carter Nicholas & }
Dudley Digges, Esquires. }

London^t 6th July, 1773.

GENTLEMEN,

I have within theſe few Days been honoured with your Letter of the 6th April, and think myſelf under great Obligations to you for the Confidence you are pleased to reſpoſe in me, by thinking me a Proper Person to correfpond with on the Subject Matter recited in your Letter.

In Conſequence thereof I have procured and ſent you, under Favor of my worthy friend Mr Benjamin Harrifon, the Act of Parliament for preſerving his Maſtys Dock Yards, Magazines, Ships and ſo forth; and alſo the Journals of the Houſe of Commons from the Period of Time you mention as far as can at preſent be had, which ſhall be continued, and you may be aſſured I will be diligent in my Enquiries after all other Acts or Resolutions of Parliament or Proceedings of Adminiſtration lately paſſed or entered into, or which may hereaſter take place, and that may in any Degree affect any of the Colonies of America, and like a faithful Watchman acquaint you therewith. Our Preſent Parliament who are juſt prorogued have made ſuch Strides towards Despotiſm for ſometime paſt, with reſpect to the Eaſt India Company as well as America, that we have too much Reaſon to dread bad Conſequences from ſuch Proceedings. Some of my Friends in the India Direction tell me that they have Thoughts of ſending a Quan‐tity of Tea to Boſton, New York, Philadelphia, Virginia & South Carolina, which Government ſeems to approve, but they ſuſpect their Motives are to make a Cat's Paw of the Company, and force them to eſtablish the 3^d. p^r. C^e. American Duty. I advised the Gentlemen not to think of ſending their Tea till Government took off the Duty, as they might be well aſſured it would not be received on any other Terms, what

¹ Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1773.

what their Resolutions, will be, time only will discover. When anything offers worthy your ¹⁴ Notice, I shall take the Liberty of advising you again, at present remain, with great Respect

Gentlemen

Your very obedient Serv^t.

John Norton.

South Carolina.

Charles Town,¹ So. Carolina, July, 9th 1773.

SIR:

When I had the honor^t of receiving your Letter of the 19th March last, the Commons House of Assembly of this Province was under an Adjournment to the 6th Inst^t. As soon as a House was formed, which was not till Yesterday, I laid your Letter before them; as a Prorogation was expected, which accordingly took Effect at Noon, the House lost not a Moment's Time, but instantly Proceeded to the Consideration of your Resolutions which you inclosed me; and unanimously approving them, appointed a Committee to correspond with yours, agreeable to your Recommendation, being desirous to shew their Readiness to cooperate with your House in a Measure dictated by such wise Councils, and directed to such laudable Ends. A Copy of their Resolutions I now inclose you, by which you will see Sir, the Pleasing Task that is assigned me, of conveying to you, and the Rest of the Members of the honorable House of Burgesses of your Province, the Thanks of the Commons House of Assembly of this Province, for communicating the said Resolutions, as for their steady Attention to the general Interests of America, by which your Province have so nobly and uniformly distinguished itself in the great Cause of Liberty. You will also be pleased to observe, that the House have paid proper Attention to the Measure recommended and adopted by your House to prevent counterfeiting the Paper Money of other Colonies by ordering a Bill to be brought in for that Purpose; and though the Prorogation has prevented, at this time, the carrying the same into Execution, yet the House will certainly take up the Matter, and proceed upon it, as soon as they can go upon Busines.

The Obstacle which has for so long a Time past prevented the House from doing Busines, is not yet removed, to wit, a Clause dictated by an Instruction, which the House is required to insert in the Tax Bill—But which they never will submit to.

I am with great Respect Sir,

Your most ob^t. humb: S^t.

Raw. Lowndes.

Hon^{ble} Peyton Randolph.

Resolve inclosed.²

SOUTH CAROLINA.

In the Commons House of Assembly the 8th day of July, 1773.

M^r Speaker reported to the house, that he had received a Letter from the Speaker of the honorable House of Burgesses of Virginia, inclosing several Resolutions of that House. And the said Letter and Resolutions were read to the house.

And the said Resolutions being unanimously approved of by the House.

Resolved, that M^r Speaker and any eight of the other Members of the standing Committee of Correspondence, be a Committee to enquire for and obtain Intelligence upon the several Matters mentioned in the said Resolutions, and to correspond with the Committee, appointed by the said House of Burgesses, and Committees appointed or to be appointed in our Sister Colonies respecting the same.

Resolved, that M^r Speaker do transmit the Thanks of this House, to the Speaker and Members of the said House of Burgesses of Virginia, for communicating the said Resolutions to this House, as well as for their steady Attention to the General Interests of America.

M^r

¹ Missing.

² Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1773.

¹⁶ M^r Speaker also reported to the house, that he had received a Letter from the Committee mentioned on the Resolutions of the House of Burgesses of *Virginia*, inclosing him a Copy of an A^ct of the General Assembly of *Virginia*, to prevent the counterfeiting of paper Money of other Colonies. And the said Letter and A^ct were read to the house.

Ordered, that Leave be given to bring in a Bill, to prevent the Counterfeiting Paper Money of other Colonies, and that M^r *Rutledge*, M^r *Gadsden*, and Col^o. *Pinkney*, do prepare and bring in the said Bill.

A true Copy from the Journal,

THOS. FARR, JUNR.,

Clerk.

Connecticut.

GENTLEMEN:¹

The Speaker of the House of Representatives of this Colony having transmitted to the Speaker of the house of Burgesses of your Colony, a Copy of the Resolutions entered into by their House, at their last Session, constituting a Committee of Correspondence and Inquiry—Permit us to refer you to those Resolutions; by which you will see the House of Representatives of this Colony have fully adopted the Measure Proposed by your Patriotic House of Burgesses, and with Pleasure follow the Lead given and Example set by the fathers of the People in the ancient, free and loyal Colony of Virginia. That Committee have appointed us a select corresponding Committee.

We have to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter directed to the Speaker of our House of Representatives; and in Answer, say, with Respect to the Court of Enquiry said to have been lately held in Rhode Island, vested with extraordinary unconstitutional Powers; that the Committee of Correspondence in that Colony, can, and doubtless will, give you more full Intelligence respecting that Matter than we can.

¹⁷ As to the Copy of an A^ct inclosed in yours, our Governor had not received the Letter you mention from the Governor of *Virginia*, nor has he yet received any.—We waited for that till it was too late in the Session, to move it, in expectation of a Motion from that Quarter. If no letter from the Governor of *Virginia* should be received before next Session, the Matter will be taken up without it, and we can imagine no Opposition that will be made.

We are directed to request of you the Favor to inform us, what has been done, by the Judge or Judges of the superior Court in your Colony, on the Requisition made, for writs of Assitants. That matter is now under the Consideration of the superior Court here, and as it is a matter of very great Importance to the Colonies in General, We wish your Answer, that the proceedings that have been had with you, and your candid and free Sentiments thereon, may be fully known here.

We shall at all times, and on all Occasions, with the greatest Pleasure and Readiness, execute our Commission of Correspondence and Inquiry, as we are firmly persuaded of the Utility of the Measure, so seasonably proposed, by the Colony of *Virginia*, and we hope universally adopted by the other Colonies; and hope thereby to cultivate and strengthen that Harmony and Union, among all the English Colonies on the Continent of America, which daily appears to us more and more necessary to preserve and secure the Safety, Peace, Prosperity and happiness of the whole.

We are with great Truth and Regard Gent.

Your most obedient humble Servants

Will: Williams.

Silas Deane.

Benj: Payne.

Joseph Trumbull.

Colony of Connecticut, to wit Lebanon 10th Aug.: 1773.

Philadelphia

¹ Missing.

Philadelphia¹ Sept. 25. 1773. 18

SIR:

I embraced the earliest Opportunity to communicate your Favour of the 19th of March, with the Resolves of the House of Burgesses of the Colony of Virginia, to the assembly of this Province; and I have it in Command from them to assure your honorable House, that they esteem it a Matter of the greatest Importance to cooperate with the Representatives of the other Colonies in every wise and prudent Measure, which may be proposed for the Preservation and Security of their general Rights & Liberties, and that it is highly expedient and necessary a Correspondence should be maintained between the Assemblies of the several Colonies; But as the present assembly must in a few Days be dissolved, by Virtue of the Charter of the Province, and any Measures they might adopt at this Time, rendered, by the Dissolution ineffectual, they have earnestly recommended the Subject Matter of the Letter and Resolves of the House of Burgesses of Virginia to the Consideration of the succeeding Assembly.

In the Name and by the order of the House, I have the honor to be with great Respect
Sir, your most obedient Servant,

Joseph Galloway.
Speaker.

Massachusetts Bay.

Province of Massachusetts Bay.²
Boston, Oct: 21. 1773.

GENTLEMEN:

The Committee of Correspondence appointed by the House of Representatives of this Province have been not altogether inattentive to the Design of their Institution. We have been waiting for Intelligence from Great Britain, from whose injudicious Councils the common Grievances of the Colonies have sprang; in hopes that a Change in the American Department would have produced a happy Change in the Measures of Administration, ¹⁹ but we are sorry to say, that from the best Accounts we have obtained, the Ministry have been hitherto so far from radically redressing American Grievances, that even the least Relaxation has not been advised, if thought of. On the Contrary, the British Parliament have been prorogued without taking the least Notice of the Affairs of America; while they have been curtailing the Charter of the East India Company in such a manner and in such a Degree, as to indicate that they are much more intent upon increasing the Power and Influence of the Crown than securing the Liberties of the Subject. At the same time, this Province has had a very recent Discovery of the unaltered Resolution of the Ministry to pursue their plan of arbitrary Power, in the King's answer to the Petitions of our Assembly against the appropriation of the Revenue raised from the Colonies, for the purpose of rendering our Governor and Judges dependent on the Crown.

In his Majesty's Answer we have Nothing explicit, but his Resolution to support the supreme Authority of the British Parliament to make Laws binding on the Colonies, (altho' the Petitions were supported by the express Declarations of the Charter of the Province) and his great Displeasure that principles repugnant to that Right were therein held forth. Such an Answer to such a Petition affords the strongest Grounds to conclude, that the Ministry are as firmly resolved as ever, to continue the Revenue Acts and apply the Tribute extorted by virtue of them from the Colonies, to maintain the executive Powers of the several Governments of America absolutely independent of their respective Legislatures; or rather absolutely dependent on the Crown, which will, if a little while persisted in, end in absolute Despotism.

Such

¹ Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1773. ² Ibid.

Such being still the Temper of the British Ministry, such the Disposition of the Parliament of Britain under their Direction and Influence, to consider themselves as the Sovereign of America, Is it not of the utmost Importance that our vigilance should increase, that the Colonies should be united in their Sentiments of the Measures of Opposition necessary to be taken by them, and that in whichever of the Colonies any Infringements are or shall be made on the Common Rights of all, that Colony should have the united Efforts of all for its Support. This we take to be the true design of the Establishment of our Committees of Correspondence.

There is one Thing which appears to us to be an Object worthy of the immediate Attention of the Colonies. Should a War take Place, which is thought by many to be near at-hand, America will then be viewed by Administration in a Light of Importance to Great Britain. Her Aids will be deemed necessary, her Friendship therefore will be even courted. Would it not then be the highest Wisdom in the several American Assemblies, absolutely to withhold all kinds of Aid in a General War, until the Rights and Liberties which they ought to enjoy are restored, and secured to them upon the most permanent Foundation? This has always been the Usage of a spirited House of Commons, in Britain, and upon the best Grounds; for Certainly Protection and Security ought to be the unalterable Condition when Supplies are called for.

With Regard to the Extent of Rights which the Colonies ought to insist upon, it is a Subject which requires the closest Attention and deliberation; and this is a strong Reason, why it should claim the earliest Consideration of, at least, every Committee; in order that we may be prepared, when Time and Circumstances shall give to our claim the surest Prospect of Success. And when we consider how one great Event has hurried on, upon the back of another, such a Time may come and such Circumstances take Place sooner than we are aware of. There are certain Rights which every Colony has explicitly asserted, and we trust they will never give up. That in particular that they have the sole and unalienable Right to give and grant their own Money and to appropriate it to such purposes as they judge proper, is justly deemed to be of the last Importance. But whether even this Right, so essential to our Freedom and Happiness can remain secure to us, while a Right is claimed by the British Parliament to make laws binding upon us in all Cases whatever, you will certainly consider with Seriousness. It would be debasing to us, after so manly a Struggle for our Rights, to be contented with a mere temporary Relief. We take the Liberty to present you with the State of a Controversy upon that Subject, between the Governor of this Province and the Assembly. And as the Assembly of this or some other Colony may possibly be called into a further Consideration of it, we should think ourselves happy in a Communication of such further Thoughts upon it, as we are persuaded will, upon a perusal occur to your Minds. We are far from desiring the Connection between Great Britain and America should be broken, *Esto perpetua*, is our most ardent wish: but upon the Terms only of equal Liberty. If we cannot establish an Agreement upon these Terms, let us leave it to another and wiser Generation. But it may be worth Consideration, that the Work is more likely to be well done, at a Time when the Ideas of Liberty, and its Importance are strong in Men's Minds. There is Danger that these Ideas will hereafter grow faint and languid. Our Posterity may be accustomed to bear the Yoke; and being inured to Servility they may even bow the Shoulder to the Burden. It can never be expected that a People however numerous, will form and execute a wise Plan to perpetuate their Liberty, when they have lost the Spirit and Feeling of it.

We cannot close without mentioning a fresh Instance of the Temper and Design of the British Ministry; and that is in allowing the East India Company, with a View of pacifying them, to ship their Teas to America. It is easy to see how aptly this Scheme will serve, both to destroy the Trade of the Colonies and increase the Revenue. How necessary then is it, that each Colony should take effectual Methods to prevent this Measure from having it's designed Effect.

Gentlemen,

Gentlemen, the foregoing Letter was unanimously agreed to by the Committee of Correspondence and is in their Name and by their Order transmitted to you, by your most respectful Friends & humble Servants,

Thomas Cushing.
Samuel Adams.
Wm. Heath.

P. S. It is the Request of the Committee that the Contents of this Letter be not made publick, lest the Common Enemy, should counteract & prevent its Design.

Delaware.

New Castle on Delaware, ¹ Oct. 25. 1773.

SIR:

I am ordered by the House of Representatives of this Government to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the 19th of March last, addressed to the Speaker of the late Assembly here, inclosing a Copy of the Resolves entered into by the House of Burgesses of your Colony, and to inform you that the same were laid before this House the first Time they met after receiving them; and I now have the Pleasure of transmitting to you a Copy of their Minutes & Proceedings on this Occasion, which are so expressive of their Sentiments of the Measures adopted and recommended by your House, that Nothing need be added thereto.

In the Name and by the Order of the House,

I am with great Respect, your mo: ob^t. Sev^t.

Caesar Rodney.
Speaker.

Minutes & Resolutions inclosed in the foregoing Letter.

23

Counties on Delaware.

In the House of Representatives.²

Saturday, October 23. 1773. A. M.

On Motion of Mr Read.

Ordered, That the several Letters from the respective Speakers of the House of Burgesses, in the Colony of Virginia, the House of Deputies in the Colony of Rhode Island, and the House of Representatives in the province of Massachusetts Bay, with the several Resolves inclosed, be read the second time, which was done accordingly.

And the House taking the same Consideration, resolved itself into a grand Committee of the whole House.

Mr Speaker left the Chair.

Mr McKean took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Mr McKean reported from the Committee, that they had directed him to make the following Report to the House;

Viz:

Whereas, the Speaker of the late Assembly presented to the House, several Letters which he received during the Receipts of the House, one from the truly patriotic House of Burgesses of his Majesty's ancient Dominion of Virginia, inclosing a Copy of certain Resolutions entered into by them on the 12th of March last, one from the honorable House of Deputies of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, inclosing certain Resolutions, entered into by them on the 7th of May last, and one from the free and spirited House of Representatives of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, inclosing certain Resolutions entered into by them on the 28th of May last, and requesting that a Committee of this House may be appointed to communicate from time to Time,

with

¹ Missing. ² Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1773.

with the corresponding Committees appointed by the said Assemblies, and named in the said respective Resolves.

And whereas, this House is of the Opinion, that the Measures adopted by the aforesaid Assemblies, and Proposed to this, are very salutary and highly necessary at this Time, when the Rights and Liberties of all appear to be systematically invaded.

Resolved, That this House have a very grateful Sense of the Obligations they are under to the House of Burgesses in *Virginia*, for the Vigilance, Firmness and Wisdom, which they have discovered at all Times in Support of the Rights and Liberties of the American Colonies, and do heartily concur with them, in their said judicious and Spirited Resolves.

Resolved, That a standing Committee of Correspondence and Inquiry be appointed to consist of five Members, any three of whom to be a Quorum; whose Business it shall be to obtain the most early and authentic Intelligence of all such Acts and Resolutions of the British Parliament, or Proceedings of Administration, as may relate to, or affect the British Colonies in *America*; and to keep and maintain a Correspondence and Communication with our Sister Colonies respecting these important Considerations; and the Result of such their proceedings, from time to time, lay before this House.

Resolved, That it be an Instruction to the said Committee, that they do, without Delay, inform themselves particularly of the Principles and Authority on which was constituted a Court of Enquiry, held in *Rhode Island*, said to be vested with Powers ²⁵ to transport Persons accused of Offences committed in *America*, to Places beyond the Seas, to be tried.

Resolved, That the said Committee be further instructed to prepare and report to this House Draughts of very respectful Answers to the Letters above mentioned, also a circular Letter to the Speaker of the several other Houses of Assembly on this Continent, inclosing the aforesaid Resolves; and requesting them to lay the same before their respective Assemblies, in Confidence that they will readily & cheerfully comply with the well concerted and wise Resolves of the House of Burgesses in *Virginia*.

To which said Resolves the House agreed Nemine contradicente. Then the House immediately made Choice of the following Gentlemen to be the Committee of Correspondence and Communication with the other Colonies *viz*: M^r Speaker, *George Read*, *Thomas McKean*, *John McKinley* and *Thomas Robison*, Esquires.

I do hereby certify the above and foregoing, to be a true Copy from the Minutes of the Assembly.

DAVID THOMPSON, Cler: Ibid.

Connecticut.

Colony of Connecticut. ¹ New Haven, Nov. 4.

GENTLEMEN:

Since our Letters of June last, nothing material has occurred worthy transmitting to you from this Distance. The extraordinary Court of Inquiry in *Rhode Island* is closed without effecting anything, nor can we conceive it, to have been Projected with other serious View than to establish by Precedent the unconstitutional Measure. In our last we took Notice of the Act of your honorable House of Burgesses, respecting Counterfeitors of yours and the Currency of other Provinces, and informed you that his honor our Governor expected a Letter on the Subject. That not coming to hand, was the Reason no Act passed in our ²⁶ last Session of Assembly. The present Assembly at this Place, have taken up the Matter and by a general Act, made the Counterfeiting of the Currency of any of the English Colonies on the Continent equally capital with the counterfeiting our own.

The Act passed both Houses of Assembly this Week, and in our next will transmit you an extract of it.

There are no offences in this Colony punished with Death except Murder, Conspiracy against the Government and others of that kind. Robbery Counterfeiting &c. have heretofore been

¹ Extract only—Original missing.

been punished by branding, cropping and Imprisonment, but the present Act, sentences Offenders of this kind, to Confinement and Labor, in a Copper Mine, from which we judge an Escape is impossible.

The late Resolutions of the Minister, to permit Teas to be sent by the East India Company to Boston, New-York and Philadelphia, where they are daily expected, give us the most uneasy Apprehensions for the Consequences, though we have the utmost Confidence in the firmness and Virtue, of the Inhabitants of those capital Towns on this Occasion.

It is with the greatest Pleasure we see the seasonable & beneficial Example set by your honorable & patriotic House of Burgesses, already followed by almost all the Houses of Assembly on the Continent, and doubt not but that it will be universal soon.

The Union of the Colonies is of the last Importance, and We conceive a regular Correspondence the most certain Means to affect so salutary a Design. We are, with the highest Esteem & Respect Gentlemen,

your most obliged & very humble Serv^{ts}.

Ebenezer Silliman.
Willm. Williams.
Chrashu Walcott.
Sam: H. Parsons.
Silas Deane.
Benj: Payne.

Extract of An Act made and passed by the Governor and Company of the Colony ²⁷ of Connecticut, at a General Assembly holden at New Haven, on the second Thursday in October A. D. 1773.

Be it enacted, &c.¹ that whosoever shall presume to forge, counterfeit or alter any of the Bills of Credit of this Colony, or the Bills of Credit of any other of the English Colonies or provinces on this Continent; or shall utter and put off any forged counterfeit or altered Bill, or Bills knowing them to be such; or that shall counfel, advise, procure or any Ways assist in the forging, counterfeiting, imprinting, stamping, altering or signing of any false, forged and counterfeit Bill or Bills, knowing them to be such; or that shall engrave any Plate, or make any Instrument to be used for any of the Purposes aforesaid; or that shall stamp, or any other ways counterfeit any of the several sorts of Coin mentioned in an Act of Parliament made & passed in the 6th Year of the Reign of Queen Anne, &c.

Such Person or Persons, so offending, shall for the first offence suffer Imprisonment in said Gaol, Mine or Work House, and there to be kept to hard Labor for a term not exceeding ten Years at the discretion of the Court before which such Conviction shall be had.

And if any such Person shall commit the like offence a second Time, and be thereof convicted as aforesaid, he or they shall suffer Imprisonment in the said Gaol, Mine, and Workhouse, and there be kept to hard Labor, as aforesaid, for and during the Term of his or her natural Life.

Compared with the original Act

Pr^r S. DEANE, Cler: Com:

Georgia.

Savannah in Georgia, 20th Nov^r 1773.²

SIR:

I have the honor to transmit the Thanks of the Commons House of Assembly of this Province to you Sir, and the other Members of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, for communicating your Intentions firmly to support the Rights and Liberties of America on that most interesting Subject contained in your Resolutions.

I am respectfully, Sir, your most obedient Servant.

Willm. Young

Savannah

¹ Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1773.

² Ibid.

Savannah in Georgia,¹ 20th Nov. 1773.

SIR:

We have, in consequence of an Order of the Commons House of Assembly the Pleasure to transmit to you, a Copy of the Resolutions entered into by them, similar to those of other Houses upon the Continent: And altho' late as we are in Answering your esteemed favour, yet Sir, we are not the less warm in coinciding with the Sister Colonies in every Measure that may tend to the Preservation of the Liberties and Privileges of Americans.

We also beg Leave to inclose you a Copy of an Act passed in our last Session, for preventing the counterfeiting of the Paper Currency of other his Majesty's Colonies in America, and are hopeful that Laws of the same Nature, being passed in the other Provinces will effectually put a Stop to the Evil so loudly complained of.

We have the honor to be respectfully,

Sir,

Your mo: ob¹ Serv^{ts}

Willm. Young.

W. Jones.

Joseph Clay.

D. Zubly Junr.

Wm. Coultts.

Resolves inclosed in the foregoing Letter.

29

Georgia.

Commons House of Assembly.²

Friday, the 10th of September, 1773.

Mr Speaker laid before the House two Letters that he had received from the Speaker of the House of Burgesses of *Virginia*, and also of the House of Deputies of *Rhode Island*, inclosing Resolutions of their respective Houses, and also the Copy of an Act to prevent Counterfeiting the Paper Currency of other Colonies, which said Resolutions being severally read were unanimously approved of.

Resolved, Nem.con. that Mr Speaker and any five of the Committee of Correspondence be a Committee to enquire for and obtain the earliest Intelligence of the many important Matters contained in the said several Resolutions, and that they likewise do from time to Time correspond with the respective Committees that are now or may be appointed by the Houses of Representatives on this Continent.

Resolved, Nem.con. that the Thanks of this House be transmitted to the honorable the Speaker and Members of the House of Burgesses of *Virginia*, and also the honorable the Speaker and Members of the House of Deputies of *Rhode Island*, for Communicating their Intentions firmly to support the Rights and Privileges of his Majesty's faithful and loyal Subjects in *America*, and also to the honorable *Peyton Randolph*, Esquire, *Robert Carter Nicholas & Dudley Digges*, Esquires, for transmitting to this House a copy of the above mentioned Act.

A true Copy taken from the original Journals and examined by
RICHARD CUN^{ym} CROOKE, Clerk.

The Act inclosed.

An Act to prevent counterfeiting the Paper Money of other his Majesty's Colonies & Provinces in America.

Whereas, the Want of a sufficient Quantity of circulating Specie, to answer the Purposes of Commerce, or the Exigencies of Government, hath induced this and most others of the British Colonies in *America*, to circulate certain Paper Notes as a necessary Medium, the Counterfeiting of which is usually made a felony in the respective Governments where they are emitted.

And

¹ Missing.² Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1773.

And whereas, is it supposed that evil minded Persons may establish Presses in this Province for counterfeiting the Paper Currency of other his Majesty's Provinces or Colonies in *America* and by that means such forged Bills may be thrown into Circulation with greater Facility and Security to the Authors thereof, and it being judged reasonable that neighboring Countries having Intercourse in Trade, should provide as far as in them lies, against the abasing of their Medium of Commerce. We therefore pray your most sacred Majesty that it may be enacted.

And be it enacted by his Excellency Sir *James Wright*, Baronet, Captain General and Governor in chief in and over his Majesty's Province of *Georgia*, by and with the Advice and Consent of the honorable Council and Commons House of Assembly in general Assembly met and by the Authority of the same, that if any Person or Persons after the Passing of this Act, shall within this Province prepare, engrave, stamp or print, or cause or procure to be prepared, engraved, stamped, or printed the Counterfeit Resemblance of any Paper Money, which now is or hereafter may be, circulated in Paiments by legislative Authority in any British Colony or Plantation in *America*, with Intention that such counterfeit Paper shall be passed in Paiment whether the same be so passed or not, shall be adjudged a felon and shall suffer Death without Benefit of Clergy, and if any Person or Persons shall in this Province pay or tender in Paiment any such Counterfeit Money knowing the same to be forged, or counterfeited, altered or erased, every such person being lawfully convicted, shall forfeit the sum of two hundred pounds current money of this Province, and shall be imprisoned in the common Gaol for six Calendar months and during such Imprisonment shall be publickly whipped three Times.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid that this Act shall continue and be in force for the Term of five years and from thence to the End of the next Session of the General Assembly and no longer.

By order of the Commons Houfe of Assembly.

Will^m Young, Speaker.

By order of the upper Houfe of Assembly

James Habersham, President.

Council Chamber 29. Sep. 1773.

Affented to

Ja: Wright.

GEORGIA. Secretary's Office.

A true Copy taken from the Original in this Office and examined by

JOSEPH GOLDWIRE, P^r D. Sec^{ry}

Maryland.

Maryland: Dec^r 6, 1773.

SIR:

I took the earliest Opportunity after the Receipt of your letter of the 19th March, to lay the Resolutions of your House of Burgesses, before the House of Delegates of this Province at their meeting in June last. They then had them under Consideration, but before any Resolutions were entered into, an unexpected Prorogation took Place. At their next meeting in October, they resumed the Consideration, and most readily came to the Resolutions, which I have now the honor to inclose, and which I have in Command to transmit to you, requesting you will lay them before the House of Burgesses of the Colony of Virginia. I am Sir, with great Respect, your mo: ob^t S^t

Matt: Tilghman.

Resolves inclosed in the Preceding Letter.²

By the lower Houfe of Assembly Friday, Oct. 15. 1773.

The Order of the Day being read, the Houfe took into Consideration the feveral Letters

¹ Missing.

² Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1773.

Letters and other Papers communicated to this House by the honorable Speaker, and addressed to him by the honorable the Speakers of the several Colonies of *Virginia, Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut and Rhode Island*, and *resolved* unanimously:

That this House most cordially accept the Invitation to a mutual Correspondence and Intercourse with our Sister Colonies.

Resolved, unanimously, that a standing Committee of Correspondence and Inquiry be appointed to consist of eleven Persons to wit, the honorable Matthew Tilghman, Esquire, speaker, John Hall, Thomas Johnson, William Paca, Samuel Chase, Edward Loyd, Matthias Hammond, Josias Beale, James Loyd Chamberlaine, Brice Thomas, Beale Worthington, and Joseph Sim, Esquires, any six of whom to be a Committee whose Business it shall be to obtain the most early and authentic Intelligence, of all such Acts and Resolutions of the British Parliament or Proceedings of Administration, as may relate to or effect, the British Colonies in *America*, and to keep and maintain a Correspondence and Communication with our Sister Colonies, respecting these important Considerations, and the Result of such their Proceedings from time to time to lay before this House.

Resolved, unanimously, that the Speaker of this House, transmit to the Speakers of the different Assemblies on this Continent Copies of the above Resolutions.

Extract from the Journals of the lower House of Assembly of the Province of Maryland.

P^r JOHN DUIKETT, Cl: Lo. Ho.

North Carolina.

83

SIR:

North Carolina, ¹ Dec^r 26. 1773.

I have the honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your much esteemed favor of the 19th of March, accompanying the Resolves of your House of Burgesses, which I lost no Time in laying before the House of Assembly of this Colony, who very chearfully received and adopted them.

I have it in Command to transmit you the Resolutions entered into, by our House, which you will herewith receive, and am with great respect and Esteem,

Sir, your mo: ob^t S^t

John Harvey.

Resolves inclofed.¹

NORTH CAROLINA

In the Assembly 8th December, 1773.

Upon the Speaker's communicating to this House a Letter from the truly patriotic House of Burgesses of his Majesty's ancient Dominion of *Virginia*, inclosing a Copy of certain Resolves entered into by them upon the 12th Day of *March* last, and requesting that this House would appoint a Committee to communicate from Time to Time with a corresponding Committee by them then appointed. And also Letters from several of our Sister Colonies expressing their high approbation of and Concurrence with so salutary a measure.

This House *Resolve*, That the Vigilance which the honorable House of Burgesses of *Virginia* have displayed in attending to every incroachment upon the Rights and Liberties of *America*, and the Wisdom and Vigor with which they have always opposed such encroachments, are worthy the Imitation and merit the Gratitude of all their Sister Colonies, and in no Instance more particularly than in the Measure proposed for appointing corresponding Committees in every Colony by which such Harmony & Communication will be established among them that they will at all Times be ready to exert their united Efforts and most strenuous Endeavors to preserve the just Rights and Liberties of the American Colonies, which appear of late to be so systematically invaded, that we heartily concur with these spirited Resolves.

Resolved,

¹ Missing.

Resolved, that a standing *Committee of Correspondence and Inquiry* be appointed to consist of nine Persons to wit, Mr *Speaker*, Mr *Howe*, Mr *Harnett*, Mr *Hooper*, Mr *Caswell*, Mr *Vail*, Mr *Afh*, Mr *Hewes*, Mr *Samuel Johnston*, any five of whom to be a Committee whose Busineſſ it ſhall be to obtain the moſt early and authentick Intelligence, of all ſuch Acts & Resolutions of the British Parliament, or Proceedings of Administration as may relate to or effect, the British Colonies in *America*, and to keep up and maintain a Correspondence and Communication with our Sister Colonies reſpeſting these im- portant Considerations, and the Reſult of ſuch their Proceedings from time to time to lay before the Houſe.

Resolved that it be an Inſtruction to the ſaid Committee, that they do, without Delay, inform themſelves particularly of the Principles and Authority on which was conſtituted a Court of Inquiry ſaid to have been lately held in *Rhode Island*, with powers to tranſport Persons accuſed of Offences committed in *America* to Places beyond the Seas to be tried.

Resolved, that the *Speaker* of this Houſe write reſpeſtful Anſwers to the Letters above mentioned, and alſo a circular Letter of Thanks, to the Speakers of the feveral Houſes of Afſembly who have ſo ſpiritedly adopted the Patriotic Resolutions and Meaſures of the truly reſpectable Houſe of Burgeſſes of *Virginia*, & for their obliging communication thereof to this Houſe, incloſing a Copy of our Proceedings and requeſting them to lay the fame before their reſpective Afſemblyies.

By order

JAMES GREEN, Jun^r C^{lk}

JOURNAL

of the

HOUSE OF BURGESSES

1774

B u r g e s s e s .

Accomac	Southey Simpson James Henry	Fauquier	James Scott Thomas Marshall?
Albemarle	Thomas Jefferson John Walker	Fincastle	William Christian Robert Doak
Amelia	John Tabb John Winn	Frederick	James Wood Isaac Zane
Amherst	Joseph Cabell *William Cabell	Gloucester	Thomas Whiting Lewis Burwell
Augusta	Samuel McDowell Charles Lewis	Goochland	Thomas Mann Randolph John Woodson
Bedford	John Talbot *Charles Lynch	Halifax	Nathaniel Terry Ifaac Coles
Berkeley	Robert Rutherford Thomas Hite	Hampshire	James Mercer Joseph Nevill
Botetourt	Andrew Lewis John Bowyer	Hanover	Patrick Henry, Jr. John Syme
Brunswick	Thomas Stith Frederick Maclin	Henrico	Samuel Duval *Richard Adams
Buckingham	Henry Bell *Charles May	Isle of Wight	Richard Hardy *James Bridger
Caroline	Edmund Pendleton James Taylor	James City	Lewis Burwell Robert Carter Nicholas
Charles City	Benjamin Harrison William Acrill	Jamestown	Champion Travis
Charlotte	Paul Carrington James Speed	King & Queen	George Brooke John Tayloe Corbin
Chesterfield	Archibald Cary *Benjamin Watkins	King George	William Fitzhugh Joseph Jones
College, The	John Randolph	King William	William Aylett *Augustine Moore
Culpeper	Henry Pendleton Henry Field, Jr.	Lancaster	Richard Mitchell Charles Carter
Cumberland	John Fleming *John Mayo	Loudoun	Francis Peyton *Thomas Mason
Dinwiddie	Robert Bolling John Banister	Louisa	*Richard Anderson Thomas Johnson
Dunmore	Francis Slaughter Abraham Bird	Lunenburg	Richard Claiborne Thomas Pettus
Elizabeth City	Worlich Westwood Henry King	Mecklenburg	*Robert Munford *Matthew Marrable
Essex	James Edmundson *William Roane	Middlesex	Edmund Berkeley James Montagu
Fairfax	*George Wafington John West	Nansemond	*Benjamin Baker Lemuel Riddick

*Not shown by the Journal to have been present during the Session.

New Kent	Burwell Bassett Bartholomew Dandridge	Richmond	Robert Wormley Carter Francis Lightfoot Lee
Norfolk	Thomas Newton, Jr. James Holt	Southampton	*Edwin Gray *Henry Taylor
Norfolk Borough	Joseph Hutchings	Spotsylvania	*George Stubblefield
Northampton	John Burton John Bowdoin	Stafford	Mann Page, Jr. *Charles Carter
Northumberland	Rodham Kenner *Peter P. Thornton	Surry	*John Alexander
Orange	Thomas Barbour James Taylor	Suffex	Allen Cocke Nicholas Faulcon, Jr.
Pittsylvania	Hugh Innes *John Donelson	Warwick	David Mason Michael Blow
Prince Edward	Peter Legrand *Paschal Greenhill	Westmoreland	William Harwood William Langhorne
Prince George	Richard Bland Peter Poythres	Williamsburg	Richard Henry Lee Richard Lee
Prince William	Henry Lee Thomas Blackburn	York	Peyton Randolph
Princes Anne	Edward H. Moseley, Jr. Christopher Wright		Dudley Digges Thomas Nelson, Jr.

*Not shown by the Journal to have been present during the Session.

Changes in the Personnel, 1774.

Brunswick	Frederick Maclin succeeded John Jones
Caroline	James Taylor succeeded Walker Taliaferro
The College	John Randolph succeeded John Page
Dunmore	Abraham Bird succeeded Joseph Watson
Louisa	Thomas Johnson succeeded Dabney Carr
Orange	James Taylor succeeded Zachariah Burnley
Prince William	Thomas Blackburn succeeded Foushee Tebbs
Sussex	Michael Blow succeeded Richard Blunt

The following names do not appear in the Journal, but are found in the list of signers of the Association formed in Williamsburg, May 27th 1774:

Joseph Cabell
Charles Carter, *of Stafford*
Edwin Gray
Charles Lynch

Matthew Marrable
Charles May
Robert Munford
Henry Taylor

George Washington
Benjamin Watkins

By his Excellency John, Earl of Dunmore, his Majesty's Lieutenant and Governour General of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia, and Vice Admiral of the same:

A PROCLAMATION.

Virginia, sc.

Whereas the general assembly stands prorogued to the third *Thursday* in next month, but I find no urgent occasion for their meeting at that time: I have therefore thought fit, by this proclamation, in his Majesty's name, farther to prorogue the said assembly to the second *Thursday* in *August* next.

Given under my hand, and the seal of the colony, at *Williamsburg*, this twentieth day of *May*, 1773, and in the thirteenth year of his Majesty's reign.

Dunmore.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

By his Excellency, the Right Honourable John, Earl of Dunmore, his Majesty's Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia, and Vice Admiral of the same:

A PROCLAMATION.

Virginia, sc.

Whereas the general assembly stands prorogued to the second *Thursday* in the next month, but I find no urgent occasion for their meeting at that time: I have therefore thought fit, by this proclamation, in his Majesty's name, farther to prorogue the said Assembly to the second *Thursday* in *November* next.

Given under my hand, and the seal of the colony, at *Williamsburg*, this 8th day of *July*, 1773, and in the thirteenth year of his Majesty's reign.

Dunmore.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

By his **Excellency**, the Right Honourable **John**,
Earl of **Dunmore**, his Majesty's Lieutenant and Gov-
ernour General of the Colony and Dominion of **Vir-
ginia**, and Vice Admiral of the same:

A PROCLAMATION.

Virginia, sc.

Whereas, the general assembly stands prorogued to the second *Thursday* in the next month, but I find no urgent occasion for their meeting at that time; I have therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of his Majesty's Council, by this proclamation in his Majesty's name, farther to prorogue the said Assembly to the first *Thursday* in *May* next, at which time I require their attendance at the Capitol, in the city of *Williamburg*, for the dispatch of public business.

Given under my hand, and the seal of the colony, at *Williamburg* aforesaid, this 19th day of *October*, 1773, and in the 13th year of his Majesty's reign.

Dunmore.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

JOURNAL

of the

HOUSE OF BURGESSES

Thursday, the 5th of May, 14 Geo. III. 1774.

THE House met pursuant to the last Prorogation;

Several *Members* returned upon new Writs having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and subscribed the Test, took their Places in the House.

And there not being fifty *Members* besides the *Speaker*, present; *The House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning ten of the Clock.*

Friday, the 6th of May, 14 Geo. III. 1774.

A Message from the Governor by *John Blair*, Esquire, Clerk of the Council.
Mr Speaker,

The Governor commands this House to attend his Excellency, immediately, in the Council Chamber.

Accordingly Mr Speaker, with the House went up to attend his Excellency.
And being returned;

Mr Speaker reported, that the House had attended the Governor, in the Council Chamber, where his Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to the Council and this House, of which Mr Speaker said, he had, to prevent Mistakes, obtained a Copy; which he read to the House, and is as followeth, *viz.*:

*Gentlemen of the Council, Mr Speaker, and
Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses.*

Having had nothing in particular charge from His Majesty to offer to your consideration, I have consulted only your own ease in the time of Assembling you for the necessary business of the Colony; in which I recommend to you to proceed with that dispatch which the Publick convenience requires.

*Mr Speaker and Gentlemen of the House
of Burgesses.*

I have not at this time anything to require of you; but I hope that your resolutions on the various matters, which shall be the subject of your deliberation, may be influenced by prudence and Moderation.

*Gentlemen of the Council, Mr Speaker, and
Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses.*

My Ardent desire faithfully to promote the Service of His Majesty, who ever Evinces the good of His People to be the first object of His thoughts, will make me Heartily concur with

with you in all measures, and assent to all such Laws as shall be for the welfare and true interest of this Country.

Resolved, that an humble Address be presented to his Excellency the Governor, returning him the Thanks of this House for his kind Speech at the Opening of this Session; to assure his Lordship, that we will proceed with that coolnes and deliberation ⁸¹ which ought ever to influence our Councils; and that we will give the important busines of the Country, on which we are now Assembled, all the dispatch that the nature of it will admit.

That, as it will ever afford us much Pleasure to observe an increase of his Excellency's domestic felicity, We embrace this earliest opportunity, that hath presented itself, of congratulating him on the happy arrival of the Right honourable the Countess of *Dunmore*, his Lordship's very amiable and most respectable Lady, with their Children, whom we consider as so many Pledges of our mutual happiness.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to draw up an Address, to be presented to the Governor, upon the said Resolution.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Treasurer*, and Mr *Richard Henry Lee*.

Ordered, that the Governor's Speech to the Council and this House be referred to the said Committee.

Resolved, that the Governor's Speech be taken into Consideration upon *Monday* next.

Resolved, that this House will, upon *Monday* next, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into Consideration the Governor's Speech.

Ordered, that the Reverend *Thomas Price* be continued Chaplain to this House, and that he attend to read Prayers at ten of the Clock every Morning in the House.

Ordered, that Mr *Bland* do go to the Council, and acquaint them, that the Chaplain ⁸² will attend to read Prayers at ten of the Clock every Morning in the House.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor to order a new Writ to issue for the electing of a Burges,¹ to serve in the present General Assembly, for the County of *Caroline* in the room of Mr *Walker Taliaferro*, who, since his Election for the said County, hath accepted the Office of Sheriff of the said County; and that Mr *Edmund Pendleton* do wait upon his Excellency with the said Address.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor, to order a new Writ to issue for the electing of a Burges,² to serve in this present General Assembly, for the County of *Dunmore* in the room of Mr *Joseph Watson*, deceased; and that Mr *Mercer* do wait upon his Excellency with the said Address.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor, to order a new Writ to issue for the electing of a Burges,³ to serve in this present General Assembly, for the County of *Louisa*, in the room of Mr *Dabney Carr*, deceased, and that Mr *Edmund Pendleton* do wait upon his Excellency with the said Address.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor, to order a new Writ to issue for the electing of a Burges,⁴ to serve in this present General Assembly for the County of *Prince William*, in the room of Mr *Foufhee Tebbs*, who, since his election for the said County, hath accepted the Office of Inspector of Tobacco; and that Mr *Henry Lee* do ⁸³ wait upon his Excellency with the said Address.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor to order a new Writ to issue for the electing of a Burges,⁵ to serve in this present General Assembly for the County of *Suffex*, in the Room of Mr *Richard Blunt*, deceased; and that Mr *David Mason* do wait upon his Excellency with the said Address.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor to order a new Writ to issue for the electing of a Burges,⁶ to serve in the present General Assembly, for the College of *William and Mary*, in the room of Mr *John Page*, junior, who, since his Election for the said College, hath been appointed one of his Majesty's Council of this Colony; and that Mr *Harrison* do wait upon his Excellency with the said Address.

A

¹ James Taylor. ² Abraham Bird. ³ Thomas Johnson. ⁴ Thomas Blackburn. ⁵ David Blow.

⁶ John Randolph.

A Member returned upon a new Writ, having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and subscribed the Test, took his place in the House.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor, to order a new Writ to issue for the electing of a Burgeſſ, ¹ to ſerve in this preſent General Aſſembly, for the County of *Brunſwick*, in the room of M^r *John Jones*, who ſince his Election for the ſaid County hath accepted the Office of Sheriff of the ſaid County; and that M^r *Stith* do wait upon his Excellency with the ſaid Address.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor, to order a new Writ to issue for the electing of a Burgeſſ, ² to ſerve in this preſent General Aſſembly, for the County of *Orange*, in the room of M^r *Zachariah Burnley*, who, ſince his Election for the ſaid County, hath accepted the Office of Sheriff of the ſaid County; and that M^r *Aylett* do wait upon his Excellency with the ſaid Address.

Ordered, that *Robert Hyland*, *William Hicks*, *John Creagh*, and *William Drinkard* be appointed Door-keepers to this House; and that they give their Attendance accordingly.

Ordered, that a Committee for Religion be appointed.

And a Committee was appointed of M^r *Treasurer*, M^r *Harwood*, M^r *Richard Lee*, M^r *Patrick Henry*, M^r *Bland*, M^r *Hutchings*, M^r *Lewis Burwell*, of *James City*, M^r *David Mason*, M^r *Harrison*, M^r *Digges*, M^r *Nelson*, M^r *Innes*, M^r *Berkelēy*, M^r *Edmund Pendleton*, M^r *Mitchell*, M^r *Aylett*, M^r *Wright*, M^r *Richard Henry Lee*, M^r *Francis-Lightfoot Lee*, M^r *Wood*, M^r *Henry Lee*, M^r *Fitzhugh*, M^r *Jones*, M^r *Bolling*, M^r *DuVal*, M^r *West*, M^r *Page*, and M^r *Mercer*. And they are to meet and adjourn from day to day, and to take into their Consideration all matters and things relating to Religion and Morality, and all ſuch as ſhall be from time to time referred to them and report their Proceedings, with their Opinions thereupon, to the House; and the ſaid Committee are to have Power to ſend for Persons, Papers and Records for their Information.

Ordered, that M^r *Richard Cary* be appointed Clerk to the ſaid Committee.

Ordered, that a Committee of Privileges and Elections be appointed.

And a Committee was appointed of M^r *Edmund Pendleton*, M^r *Treasurer*, M^r *Bland*, M^r *Harrison*, M^r *Lewis Burwell*, of *James City*, M^r *Digges*, M^r *Patrick Henry*, M^r *Nelson*, M^r *Richard Lee*, M^r *Whitinge*, M^r *Harwood*, M^r *Robert Wormeley Carter*, M^r *Dandridge*, M^r *Holt*, M^r *Bolling*, M^r *Baffett*, M^r *Jones*, M^r *Richard Henry Lee*, M^r *Francis Lightfoot Lee*, M^r *Fitzhugh*, M^r *Henry Lee*, M^r *David Mason*, M^r *West*, and M^r *Mercer*.

And they are to meet and adjourn from day to day, and to examine in the first place all returns of Writs for electing Burgeſſes, to ſerve in this preſent General Aſſembly, and compare the fame with the form preſcribed by Law; and to take into their Consideration all ſuch Matters, as ſhall or may come in queſtion, touching returns, Elections, and Privileges, and to Report their Proceedings, with their Opinions thereupon from time to time, to the House: and the ſaid Committee are to have Power to ſend for Persons, Papers and Records for their Information.

Ordered, that M^r *Edmund Pendleton*, junior, be appointed Clerk to the ſaid Committee.

Resolved, that, in all Cafes of controverted Elections to be heard at the Bar of this House, or before the Committee of Privileges and Elections, the Petitioners do by themselves, or by their Agents, within a convenient time to be appointed either by the House, or the Committee of Privileges and Elections, as the matter to be heard ſhall be, before the House, or the ſaid Committee, deliver to the ſitting Members, or their Agents, lifts of the Persons intended by the Petitioners to be objected to, who voted for the ſitting Members, giving, in the ſaid lifts, the ſeveral heads of Objection, and diſtinguishing the fame againſt the Names of the Voters excepted to; and that the ſitting Members do, by themselves, or their Agents, within the fame time, deliver the like lifts, on their part, to the Petitioners, or their Agents.

Ordered, that a Committee of Propositions and Grievances be appointed.

And

¹ Henry Tazewell.

² James Taylor.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Bland*, Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Harrison*, Mr *Richard Henry Lee*, Mr *Lewis Burwell*, of *James City*, Mr *Digges*, Mr *Harwood*, Mr *Nelson*, Mr *Baffett*, Mr *Acrill*, Mr *Patrick Henry*, Mr *Hutchings*, Mr *Newton*, Mr *Richard Lee*, Mr *David Mason*, Mr *Whitinge*, Mr *Poythress*, Mr *Bolling*, Mr *Berkeley*, Mr *Edmund Pendleton*, Mr *Aylett*, Mr *Holt*, Mr *Corbin*, Mr *Page*, Mr *Cocke*, Mr *West*, Mr *Jones*, Mr *Robert Wormley Carter*, Mr *Francis Lightfoot Lee*, Mr *Wood*, Mr *Dandridge*, Mr *Fitzhugh*, Mr *Edmondson*, Mr *Henry Lee*, Mr *Mercer*, Mr *Brooke*, and Mr *Bowdoin*. And they are to meet and adjourn from day to day, and to take into their Consideration all Propositions and Grievances that shall come legally certified to this Assembly, and to report their Proceedings, with their Opinions thereupon, from time to time, to the House: and all such Propositions and Grievances are to be delivered to the Clerk of the House, and by him to the said Committee of Course: and the said Committee are to have Power to send for Persons, Papers and Records for their Information.

Ordered, that Mr *Edmund Pendleton*, junior, be appointed Clerk to the said Committee.

Ordered, that a Committee of Publick Claims be appointed.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Richard Lee*, Mr *Newton*, Mr *David Mason*, Mr *Harwood*, Mr *Poythress*, Mr *Pettus*, Mr *Corbin*, Mr *Langhorne*, Mr *Scott*, Mr *Stith*, Mr *Christian*, and Mr *Neavill*. And they are to meet and adjourn from day to day, and to take into their Consideration all publick Claims, referred from the last to this Session of Assembly, and also all such Claims as shall be regularly certified and presented to this Session, and to report their Proceedings, with their Opinions thereupon to the House, when they have gone through the said Claims; and all Persons that have any Claims are to deliver them to the said Committee of Course: and the said Committee are to have Power to send for Persons, Papers and Records for their Information.

Ordered, that Mr *Hind Ruffell* be appointed Clerk to the said Committee.

Ordered, that a Committee for Courts of Justice be appointed.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Richard Henry Lee*, Mr *Pettus*, Mr *Westwood*, Mr *King*, Mr *Langhorne*, Mr *Holt*, Mr *LeGrand*, Mr *Dandridge*, Mr *Edmondson*, and Mr *Stith*. And they are to meet and adjourn from day to day, and to take into their Consideration all matters relating to Courts of Justice, and such other matters as shall from time to time be referred to them, and to report their Proceedings, with their Opinions thereupon, to the House; and the said Committee are to inspect the Journal of the last Session, and draw up a state of the matters then depending and undetermined, and the Progress that was made therein, and report the same to the House; and also examine what Laws have expired since the last Session, and inspect such temporary Laws as will expire with the end of this Session, or are near expiring, and report the same to the House, with their Opinions which of them are fit to be revived and continued: and the said Committee are to have Power to send for Persons, Papers and Records for their Information.

Ordered, that Mr *Edmund Randolph* be appointed Clerk to the said Committee.

Ordered, that a Committee of Trade be appointed.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Harrison*, Mr *Hutchings*, Mr *Newton*, Mr *Whitinge*, Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Innes*, Mr *Travis*, Mr *Pettus*, Mr *Acrill*, Mr *Eland*, Mr *Wright*, Mr *Mitchell*, Mr *Brooke*, Mr *Bowdoin*, Mr *Faulcon*, and Mr *Neavill*. And they are to meet and adjourn from day to day, and to take into their Consideration all things relating to the Trade of this Colony, and all matters that shall be from time to time referred to them, and report their Proceedings, with their Opinions thereupon, to the House: and the said Committee are to have Power to send for Persons, Papers and Records for their Information.

Ordered, that Mr *Richard Cary* be appointed Clerk to the said Committee.

Resolved, that eleven of the Committee's for Religion, Privileges and Elections, and Propositions and Grievances, and five of any other Committee, be a sufficient number to proceed on Business.

89 M^r Speaker acquainted the House, that he had received Letters from the Speakers of several of the lower House of Assembly of the British Colonies in America, with other Papers, upon the subject Matters which were referred to the standing Committee of Correspondence and inquiry.¹

Ordered, that the said Letters and Papers be laid before this House upon this day fortnight.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning eleven of the Clock.

Saturday, the 7th of May, 14 Geo. III. 1774.

90 TWO members returned upon new Writs, having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and subscribed the Test, took their places in the House.

A Petition of John Dames was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner, having the care of the Fort at *Old Point Comfort*, had ever since the Month of *February* last past constantly kept up a good light at that place every Night, which had been of great utility and singular advantage to Vessels coming in from Sea and passing up and down *Chesapeake Bay*; and therefore praying the House to take the matter into consideration, and allow him, out of the fund appropriated to the building a light-house at *Cape-Henry*,² such annual stipend as shall be judged adequate to his Service.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Trade; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

90 A Petition of Clementina Rind, praying that she may be appointed Printer to the Public, in the room of her Husband, M^r William Rind, deceased, and also.

A Petition of Alexander Purdie, Printer for the same; and also.

A Petition of John Dixon for the same.

Were severally presented to the House, and read.

Ordered, that the said Petitions be severally taken into Consideration upon Tuesday the twenty-fourth day of this instant *May*.

A Petition of the upper Inhabitants of the County of *Stafford*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House and read; praying that, if the Counties of *Stafford* and *King George* should be divided by the Line, made in pursuance of the Act of General Assembly, intituled *An Act³ to appoint Commissioners to strike a dividing Line between the Counties of Stafford and King George, the County above the said line may be called by the Name of Stafford*.

Ordered, that the said Petition do lie upon the Table until the Persons appointed by the said Act shall make a Report of their Proceedings.

M^r Treasurer reported from the Committee appointed to draw up an Address to be presented to the Governor, that the Committee had drawn up an Address accordingly, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the same in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

91 My Lord,

We his Majesty's Most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Burgeesses of Virginia, now met in General Assembly, beg leave to return your Excellency our unfeigned Thanks for your kind Speech at the opening of this Session.

Sensible, as we are, of the Importance of that Variety of Business, which will probably come before us, we shall esteem it our bounden Duty to proceed in the discussion of it with

Coolness

¹ See Committee of Correspondence, pp. 41-64.

² £6000 appropriated by Act of February 12, 1772.

³ Hening's, VIII, p. 601.

Coolness Deliberation and as much Dispatch as Circumstances will admit; and we flatter ourselves that every Resolution we may find it expedient to adopt, will be marked with that Prudence and Moderation, which you are pleased to recommend.

The fatherly Attention of our most gracious Sovereign to the Happiness of his Subjects, in making the Good of his People the first object of his Thoughts, cannot but impress our Minds with the liveliest Sense of Duty and Gratitude; and it is with great Satisfaction that we receive from your Excellency those earnest Assurances, that you will heartily concur with us in all Measures, and assent to all such Laws as shall be for the Welfare and true Interest of this Colony.

It will ever, My Lord, afford us much Pleasure to observe an Increase of your domestick Felicity; we therefore, with the greatest cordiality, embrace this first Opportunity to congratulate your Excellency on the happy Arrival of the Right Honourable the Countess of Dunmore,¹ your Lordship's amiable and most respectable Lady, with so many promising Branches of your noble Family; an Event which we consider as having brought with it the surest Pledges of our mutual Happiness.

The said Address being read a second time;

Resolved, nemine contradicente, that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Address, to be presented to the Governor.

Resolved, that the said Address be presented to his Excellency by the whole House.

Ordered, that the Gentlemen who drew up the said Address do wait upon the Governor, to know his pleasure when this House shall attend his Excellency to present their Address.

A Petition of *Benjamin Waller* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that by an Act of the last General Assembly, intituled *An Act² to enable Henrietta Marmillod to sell and dispose of the Estate devised to her by her brother Nathaniel Walthoe, Esquire, deceased*, notwithstanding her Coverture, the said Henrietta was enabled to dispose of all or any part of the Houses, Tenements and Lots or parcels of land, with the Appurtenances, in this Colony, and other Estate, given and devised to her by the last Will and Testament of the said Nathaniel, and to give sufficient receipts and discharges for the Consideration Monies in the same manner as if she were a *feme sole*, and that the Petitioner by Authority from the said Henrietta, and *Mary Hart* and *Martha Hart*, the other devisees of the said Nathaniel, had sold and conveyed the said Tenements, Houses and Lots to several Persons; but that the Petitioner had lately been advised the said Act was not likely to be reported by the board of Trade to his Majesty for his Assent, there having been no previous Notice of application to the last Assembly for the same; and that it would be expedient to obtain a new Act for the same Purposes, or to confirm the Titles to the Purchasers; and that the Petitioner had given Notice that application would be made to this present General Assembly for such new Act; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill to confirm the said Titles.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill according to the Prayer of the said Petition; and the Mr *Edmund Pendleton* and Mr *Attorney General* do prepare, and bring in the same.

Ordered, that Mr *Edmund Pendleton* and Mr *Mercer* have leave to be absent from the Service of this House until Tuesday fortnight.

And then the House adjourned till Monday Morning next eleven of the Clock.

Monday.

¹ Williamsburg Gazette, March 3, 1774, p. 2.

² Hening's, VIII, p. 627.

Monday, the 9th of May, 14 Geo. III. 1774.

MR *Bland* reported from the Committee of Privileges and Elections, that the Committee had, according to Order, examined the Returns of several Writs for electing Burgeesses to serve in this present General Assembly, and compared the same with the form prescribed by Law, and had come to several Resolutions, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Returns of the several ⁹⁴ Writs for electing Burgeesses to serve in this present General Assembly for the Counties of *Charlotte, Fincastle, Frederick, Hampshire, Stafford, and Surry*, and for the College of *William and Mary*, are made in the form prescribed by Law.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Returns of the several Writs for electing Burgeesses to serve in this present General Assembly for the Counties of *Fauquier, Hanover, Northampton, and Northumberland*, are not made in the form prescribed by Law.

The said *Resolutions* being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the several Returns of the Writs for electing Burgeesses to serve in this present General Assembly for the Counties of *Hanover, Northampton, and Northumberland*, be amended by the Clerk at the Table.

And the said *Returns* were amended by the Clerk accordingly.

Ordered, that the Sheriff of the County of *Fauquier* be sent for, in Custody of the Serjeant at Arms, to amend his return of the Writ for electing a Burgees to serve in this present General Assembly for the said County.

M^r Richard Henry Lee reported from the Committee for Courts of Justice, that the said Committee had, according to order, inspected the Journal of the last Session of Assembly, and drawn up a state of the matters then depending and undetermined, and the progress that was made therein; and had directed him to report the same, as it appeared to them, to the House; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

It appears to your Committee, that, at the first Session of this present General Assembly, the Petition of several Persons of the County of *Botetourt*, inhabiting the place called the *Cow Pasture*, and on *Craigs Creek*, and *James River*, praying that a Road may be made over the *South Mountain* at the expence of the Publick, was presented to the House and read, and referred to the Committee of Trade; that the said Committee reported that they had examined the matter of the said Petitions, and had come to several Resolutions thereupon, which were read and agreed to by the House, and are as followeth, *viz.* That the further Consideration of the said Petition be referred till the then next Session of Assembly; and that Commissioners be appointed to examine the place proposed for the said Road, who were to report the conveniences and Inconveniences thereof to the then next Session of Assembly.

That a *Petition* of sundry Inhabitants of the County of *Nansemond*, residing in that Part of the said County, which is on the South side of the River *Nottoway*, setting forth that they are about thirty Miles distant from the Court House of their County, but not more than thirteen Miles from the Court of the County of *Southampton*; and therefore praying, that an *Act* may pass for adding the aforesaid part of the County of *Nansemond* to the said County of *Southampton*;

Also, that a *Petition* of the Inhabitants of the Parish of *Stratton Major* in the ⁹⁶ County of *King and Queen*, setting forth that the Petitioners for several Years past have been oppressed and aggrieved by the arbitrary illegal and unwarrantable Proceedings

ceedings of their Vestry; that the said Vestry unnecessarily built a very costly church in the said Parish, and suffered others more conveniently situated to become ruinous; that the said Vestry have chosen one of their Members Clerk of the Vestry and continue him in Office, contrary to Law, and have not observed and fulfilled the directions of the Act of General Assembly in the Appointment of Proceffioners, and registering their Proceedings; and praying that the said Vestry may be dissolved:¹

Also, that a *Petition* of several Inhabitants of the Parish of *Drysdale*, in the County of *Caroline*, taking Notice of an application intended to be made to the House for a division of the said Parish, and setting forth that the Petitioners think the division unreasonable and representing that it would not relieve those who wish for it, without deserting both the present Churches in the Parish, and building others; and praying that the said Parish may not be divided:

Also, that several *Petitions* of the Inhabitants of the County of *Caroline*, setting forth, that the Rivers *Mattaponi* and *Pamunkey* are capable of an extensive Navigation, which might considerably lessen the expence of carrying Commodities to Market; that all Rivers, as the Petitioners conceive, ought to remain open not only for the Purposes of Commerce, but that the passage for fish being free, all Men may equally partake of ⁹⁷ that natural supply of Provisions; and that the General Assembly with a view to such desirable Ends, have empowered Trustees to receive Subscriptions for clearing *Mattaponi* and *Pamunkey*, in Consequence of which several sums of Money were raised, and laid out; but the good Intention of the legislature have been wholly defeated by the erecting Mill-Dams, and setting Fish Hedges and Stops, across the said Rivers, and humbly submitting it to the Wisdom of the House to provide an effectual Remedy to remove all present Obstructions, and prevent them for the future, were severally presented to the House, and read, and deferred to the Consideration of the then next Session of Assembly.

That the *Petition* of several Inhabitants of the Parish of *Drysdale*, in the County of *Caroline*, praying that a new Parish may be formed out of the said Parish of *Drysdale*, and the adjoining Parish of *Saint Margaret*, by an Union of the upper Ends thereof, and several Petitions of the Parish of *Saint Margaret* in Opposition thereto.

Also, that a *Petition* of sundry Inhabitants of the Parish of *Overwharton*, in the County of *Stafford*, setting forth that the Election of Vestrymen of the said Parish, by Virtue of a late Act of the General Assembly, was made in an unfair and illegal manner;

Also, that a *Petition* of sundry Inhabitants of the Parish of *Saint James*, in the County of *Mecklenburg*, setting forth, that the Vestry of the said Parish, having caused ⁹⁸ three large Churches and a Chapel to be built, consulted, as to the situation thereof, the Conveniency of the Vestrymen themselves, rather than that of the Parishioners; that the said Vestry having agreed to receive into the Parish a Minister, who was approved of by the Parishioners, afterwards suddenly received another Minister, who was a stranger to them; and that the said Vestry, in order to enable one *Rogers*, a notorious Gamester, of infamous Character, to obtain holy Orders, gave him a Recommendation to a Benefice, but took a Bond from him, with Security in the penalty of one thousand Pounds, that he should not claim under that Title; and severally praying that the said Vestries may be dissolved.

Also, that a *Petition* of the Freeholders, Housekeepers and other Inhabitants of the County of *Bedford*,² setting forth, that there is but one Parish in the said County, called *Russell*, which is near ninety Miles in length, and that there is a sufficient number of Tithables in the same to bear the expences of two Parishes; and praying that the said Parish may be divided by a straight line from the mouth of *Goose Creek*, on *Staunton* River, to the upper end of *Flemings* Mountain, on *James* River;

Also, several other *Petitions* in opposition thereto, were severally presented to the House, and read, and referred to the Committee for Religion; That the said Committee reported that they had come to a Resolution thereupon, which was agreed to by the House

¹ Hening's, IX, p. 317.

² Miscellaneous Papers, May 5-26, 1774.

Houfe, and is as followeth, *viz.* That the Consideration of the said Petitions be deferred till the then next Session of Assembly.

¶ That the *Petition of Benjamin Grymes* in behalf of himself and his Creditors, to be allowed a reasonable satisfaction for the Damage done their Slave who was committed to Gaol for Hog stealing, and was frost bitten during his confinement was presented to the Houfe, and read, and referred to the Committee of Claims; That the said Committee reported, that they had come to a Resolution thereupon, which was agreed to by the Houfe, and is as followeth, *viz.* That the Consideration of the said Petition be deferred til the then next Session of Assembly.

That the *Petition of Joseph Byrn*, praying that a ferry be established, over *Shanandoah* River, from his land, in the County of *Frederick*, to the land of *Bryan Martin*, Esquire, opposite thereto, was presented to the Houfe, and read, and referred to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; That the said Committee reported that they had come to a Resolution, which was agreed to by the Houfe, and is as followeth, *viz.* That the Consideration of the said Petition be deferred til the then next Session of Assembly.

It also further appears to your Committee, that at the second Session of this present Assembly, it was ordered that all such Claims and other matters as were referred from the laft to that Session of Assembly, and also all such as were certified to that Session be referred to the consideration of the then next session of Assembly.

That a *Petition* of several Persons, Inhabitants of the Counties of *Charlotte* and *Lunenburg*, praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for adding to the County of *Lunenburg*, all that part of the County of *Charlotte*, which lies on the East side of a Line to be run from the place where *Mecklenburg* County line strikes *Charlotte* County line, to *Wimburgh's* burnt Ordinary;¹

Also, that a *Petition* of *David Griffith*, Clerk, Rector of the Parish of *Shelburne*, in the County of *Loudoun*, setting forth, that the Petitioner's Salary, according to a late Determination of the General Court, is payable at the rate of twelve shillings and six pence for every hundred Pounds Weight of Tobacco, which is inadequate, and less than the Salaries received by other Ministers of the Gospel in this Colony; and therefore praying, that the Act of General Assembly allowing the Inhabitants of the County of *Loudoun* to discharge their public dues in Money at the rate of twelve shillings and sixpence per hundred for the Tobacco, as to so much thereof as relates to the Petitioner's Salary may be repealed;

Also, that a *Petition* of *Ezekiel Young* and *Charles Marshall*, Inspectors of Tobacco at *Pitts*, and *Guilford* Warehouses, in the County of *Accomack*, setting forth, that, from several unforeseen and unavoidable Accidents, a considerable Quantity of Tobacco in the Warehouse at *Tatham's* Landing was damaged and destroyed, notwithstanding the Petitioners used all their Care and Diligence to prevent it, and therefore praying such Relief as to the Houfe shall seem just;

Also, that a *Petition* of several Persons, setting forth that a publick Ferry over *Shanandoah* River from the Land of *Thomas Bryan Martin*, Esquire, where *John Nicholas* lately lived, to the Land of the Right Honorable *Thomas lord Fairfax*, in the County of *Frederick*, would be very convenient, and therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for establishing a publick Ferry at that place;

Also, that a *Petition* of several Persons, freeholders of the County of *Amherst*, setting forth that the Act made at the laft Session of General Assembly, for amending the Act,² intituled *An Act for the better preservation of the breed of Deer, and preventing unlawful hunting*, had not answered the good purposes intended by it, and therefore praying that so much of the said Act as prohibits Persons from hunting and killing Deer until the Time thereby limited, may be repealed;

Also, that a *Petition* of several Members of the Vestry of the Parish of *Saint Anne*, in the County of *Albemarle*, setting forth, that only three or four Members of the present Vestry were elected by the Inhabitants, the others having been chosen to supply Vacancies

¹ Hening's, IX, p. 327.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 591.

cies by Death removal or resignation; and that the greater part of the Parishioners seems dissatisfied with the Conduct of the said Vestry; and therefore praying that the said Vestry may be dissolved;¹

Also, that a *Petition* of the Vestrymen of the Parish of *Saint John*, in the County of *King William*, praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for selling the present Glebe of the said Parish, and purchasing another more convenient, or putting the Money out at Interest;

And also, that a *Petition* of several Persons of the County of *Accomack*, setting forth, that the Roads, and Navigation to the new erected Warehouse for Inspection of Tobacco, on *Guilford Creek*, are not so good as they are to another place called *Finley's Point*, and therefore praying that an Inspection may be established at the latter Place, were severally presented to the House, and read; and deferred to the Consideration of the then next Session of Assembly.

Ordered, that the several Petitions for dissolving the Vestry of the Parish of *Stratton Major*, for and against dividing the Parish of *Drysdale*, for and against forming a new Parish out of the Parishes of *Drysdale* and *Saint Margaret* by an Union of the upper ends thereof, for dissolving the Vestry of the Parish of *Overwharton*, for dissolving the Vestry of the Parish of *Saint James*, and for and against dividing the Parish of *Russell*, the Petition of *David Griffith*, and the Petitions for dissolving the Vestry of the Parish of *Saint Anne*, and for selling the Glebe of the Parish of *Saint John*, in the said report mentioned, be severally referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Religion; and that they do examine the matters thereof, and severally report the same, with their Opinions thereupon, to the House.

Ordered, that the several Petitions for adding part of the County of *Nansemond* to the County of *Southampton*, for removing and preventing obstructions in *Pamunkey* and *Mattaponi* Rivers, for ferries over *Shanandoah* River, for adding part of the County of *Charlotte* to the County of *Lunenburg*, for repealing part of the Act for amending the Act intituled *An Act for the better preservation of the breed of Deer and preventing unlawful hunting*, and for establishing an Inspection of Tobacco at *Finley's Point*, in the said Report mentioned, be severally referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matters thereof, and severally report the same, with their Opinions thereupon, to the House.

Ordered, that the several Petitions of *Benjamin Grymes* and of *Ezekiel Young* and *Charles Marshall*, in the said Report mentioned, be severally referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Public Claims; and that they do examine the matters thereof, and severally report the same, with their Opinions thereupon, to the House.

Ordered, that the Petition for opening a Road over the *South Mountain* at the expence of the Public, in the said Report mentioned, be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Trade; and that they do examine the matter thereof and Report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

Ordered, that Mr *Cary*, Mr *Attorney General*, Mr *Jefferson*, Mr *Walker* and Mr *Peyton* be added to the Committee for Religion.

Ordered, that Mr *Cary*, Mr *Attorney General*, Mr *Jefferson*, Mr *Kenner*, Mr *Thomas Mann Randolph*, Mr *Walker*, and Mr *James Henry* be added to the Committee of Privileges and Elections.

Ordered, that Mr *Cary*, Mr *Attorney General*, Mr *Jefferson*, Mr *Kenner*, Mr *Thomas Mann Randolph*, Mr *Burton*, Mr *Andrew Lewis* and Mr *McDowell*, be added to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

Ordered, that Mr *Cary*, Mr *Hardy*, Mr *McDowell* and Mr *Barbour* be added to the Committee of Public Claims.

Ordered, that Mr *Henry Lee*, Mr *Thomas Mann Randolph*, Mr *Montague*, Mr *James Henry*, Mr *Peyton*, Mr *Walker*, and Mr *Barbour*, be added to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

Ordered, that Mr *Burton* and Mr *Bell* be added to the Committee of Trade.

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¹ Hening's, IX, p. 442.

The House being informed, that Mr *Robert Doack*, one of the Members returned to serve in this present General Assembly for the County of *Fincafile*, had been appointed a deputy Surveyor of land in the said County, by a Commission, which bears date before his Election, but under which he had not qualified until after his Election;

Ordered, that the said information be referred to the Committee of Privileges and Elections; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, as it shall appear to them, together with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

A *Petition* of *Thomas Jefferson* and *Martha* his Wife was presented to the House, and read; setting forth that *Francis Eppes*, grandfather of the Petitioner *Martha*, by his last Will and Testament in writing devised to her Mother, in fee tail general, one Moiety of two thousand and four hundred Acres of land, now in the County of *Cumberland*; that the Petitioner *Martha* is the sole heir of the Body of her said Mother; that the Petitioners have contracted to make sale of their Moiety of the said lands; and that it will be greatly to their Interest and that of their Families to have the said contract carried into effect, by docking the Intail and settling lands, in the County of *Goochland*, of equal value, in lieu of the said Moiety; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for that purpose.¹

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr *Bland* do prepare and bring in the same.

¹⁰⁵ A *Petition* of *Hugh Walker* was presented to the House and read; setting forth that the Petitioner had for near two Years past kept the ferry from *Urbanna* over *Rappahanock* River, to a place called *Ann's Creek*, and had at considerable expence, provided good sailing and other Boats for the accomodation and conveyance of Passengers; that there is another Ferry from the North side of the said River, at a flatty and inconvenient landing place, about half a Mile lower than *Ann's Creek*; that at present the profits of the Ferry kept by the petitioner are not sufficient to defray the necessary expences of it; and that he hath purchased a small piece of land at *Ann's Creek* to and from which he proposes to keep the said Ferry; and therefore praying that no other Ferry besides that by the Petitioner may be kept from *Urbanna*, over *Rappahanock*, to the County of *Lancaster*.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof and report the same with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Mr *Attorney General* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to confirm the Titles to sundry Houses and Lots of land whereof *Nathaniel Walthoe*, Esquire, died seised, to the purchasers thereof, and the same was received and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

¹⁰⁶ A *Petition* of sundry Inhabitants of the County of *Pittsylvania*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that a Ferry from the land of *John Owen*, Gent: over *Dan* River, to the land of *Silvester Adams*, will be convenient to travellers; and therefore praying that a public ferry may be established at that Place.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

The *order* of the Day being read, for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into Consideration the Governor's Speech;

Resolved, that this House will, upon *Thursday* next, resolve itself into the said Committee.

And then the House adjourned til Tomorrow Morning eleven of the Clock.

Tuesday.

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 450.

Tuesday, the 10th of May, 14 Geo. III. 1774.

A Member returned upon a new Writ, having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and subscribed the Test, took his place in the House.

Ordered, that Mr *Banister* and Mr *Lewis Burwell*, of *Gloucester*, be added to the Committees for *Religion* and *Propositions and Grievances*.

Ordered, that Mr *Banister* be added to the Committee of *Privileges and Elections*. ¹⁰⁷

Ordered, that Mr *Henry Pendleton* and Mr *Lewis Burwell* of *Gloucester*, be added to the Committee for *Courts of Justice*.

Ordered, that Mr *Henry Pendleton* be added to the Committee of *Public Claims*.

Mr *Bland* presented to the House, according to Order a Bill to dock the intail of certain lands whereof *Thomas Jefferson* and *Martha* his Wife, in right of the said *Martha*, are feised in fee tail, for vesting the same in *Henry Skipwith*, Gent. and for settling other Lands, of equal value to the same Uses; and the same was received and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second Time.

Mr *Richard Henry Lee* reported from the Committee for *Courts of Justice*, who were appointed to inquire what Laws are expired since the last Session, or will expire with the end of this Session, or are near expiring, and to report their Opinion to the House which of them are fit to be received, or continued, that the Committee had inquired accordingly, and had come to several Resolutions, which they had directed him to Report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Act of Assembly, made in the fifth Year of his present Majesty's Reign, intituled *An Act for amending the Staple of Tobacco, and for preventing Frauds in his Majesty's Customs*, which hath been continued and amended by several Acts, and which will expire on the first Day of *October*, 1775, ought to be further continued.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Act of Assembly made in the thirtieth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King *George* the Second, intituled *an Act for reducing the several Acts¹ of Assembly for making Provision against Invasions and Insurrections into one Act*, which hath been continued by several Acts, and which will expire on the eighth day of *June*, 1775, ought to be further Continued. ¹⁰⁸

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Act of Assembly made in the thirtieth year of the Reign of his late Majesty King *George* the Second, intituled *An Act² for the better regulating and disciplining the Militia*, which hath been continued and amended by several Acts and which expired on the twentieth Day of *July* last past ought to be revived.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Act of Assembly made in the third year of his present Majesty's Reign intituled *An Act³ for the more effectual keeping the public Roads and Bridges in Repair*, which hath been continued amended and revived by two several Acts, and which will expire with the end of this present Session of Assembly, ought to be further continued.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Act of Assembly made in the twelfth Year of his Majesty's Reign, intituled *An Act for keeping in Repair several Roads, and for other purposes therein mentioned*, which expired on the eleventh Day of *April* last past, ought to be revived.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Act of Assembly made in the eleventh Year of the Reign of his present Majesty intituled *An Act⁴ for the Relief of the Sufferers by the loss of Tobacco damaged or burnt in several Warehouses*, which will expire on the twenty fifth Day of *October*, 1775, ought not to be further continued. ¹⁰⁹

Resolved,

¹ *Hening's*, VIII, pp. 37, 189, 334, 514.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, pp. 241, 503.

³ *Ibid.*, VIII, pp. 192, 542.

⁴ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 493.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that so much of the Act of Assembly made in the twelfth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled *An Act to amend an Act intituled An Act¹ for the better Preservation of the breed of Deer*, and preventing unlawful Hunting, as subjects to a Penalty any Person who shall hunt shoot or kill in any manner any wild Deer until the first day of *August* which shall be in the Year of our Lord, 1776, ought not to be further continued.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Act of Assembly made in the twenty-fifth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King *George* the Second, intituled *An Act² for reviving the Duty upon Slaves to be paid by the Buyers for the term therein mentioned*, and one other Act of Assembly made in the thirty third Year of his said Majesty's Reign, intituled *An Act to oblige Persons bringing Slaves into this Colony from Maryland, Carolina and the West Indies for their own Use to pay a Duty*, which have been continued by several other Acts, and which expired on the twentieth Day of *April*, 1773, ought to be revived.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Act of Assembly made in the nineteenth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King *George* the Second, intituled ¹¹⁰ *An Act³ for the better regulating and collecting certain Officers Fees and for other purposes therein mentioned*; which hath been continued and amended by several Acts, and which expired on the twelfth Day of *April* last past, ought not to be revived.

The *eight* first *Resolutions* of the Committee being severally read a second time, were upon the *Question* severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

The subsequent *Resolution* of the Committee being read a second time;

And the *Question* being put, that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said *Resolution*;

It passed in the Negative.

Resolved, that the Act of Assembly, made in the nineteenth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King *George* the Second, intituled *An Act for the better regulating and collecting certain Officers fees, and for other purposes therein mentioned*, which hath been continued and amended by several Acts, and which expired on the twelfth day of *April* last past, ought to be revived.

Ordered, that a Bill or Bills be brought in pursuant to the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, seventh, and eighth *Resolutions* of the said Committee, which hath been agreed to by the House; and that the said Committee do prepare and bring in the same.

Ordered, that a Bill be brought in to revive the Act of the General Assembly made in the nineteenth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King *George* the Second, intituled *An Act for the better regulating and collecting certain Officers Fees, and for other purposes therein mentioned*, and that the Committee for Courts of Justice do prepare and bring in the same.

¹¹¹ A *Bill* to confirm the Titles to sundry Houses and Lots of Land whereof *Nathaniel Walthoe*, Esquire, died seised to the purchasers thereof, was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to *M^r Attorney General*, and the Members who serve for the Counties of *York*, *James City*, and *Charles City*.

M^r Treasurer reported to the House, that the Governor, having been waited upon, pursuant to the order of *Saturday* last, to know his pleasure when he would be attended by this House, had been pleased to appoint to be attended tomorrow, at two of the Clock in the afternoon, in the Council Chamber.

M^r Bland reported from the Committee of Privileges and Elections, the matter, as it appeared to them, touching the information given to this House, that *M^r Robert Doack*, one of the Members returned to serve in this present General Assembly for the County of *Fincastle*, had been appointed a deputy Surveyor of land in the said County, by a Commission, which bears date before his Election, but under which he had not qualified until after his Election, together with the Resolution of the Committee thereupon, and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz*.

It

¹ *Hening's*, VIII, p. 591.

² *Ibid.*, VI, p. 217.

³ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 515.

It appears to the Committee, that in *October 1772*, M^r *Robert Doack* was examined by the Masters of *William and Mary College*, touching his qualification as a Surveyor; that in *March, 1773*, he was elected a Burgees for the said County of *Fincastle*; that in the Month of *December* last he received a Commission, appointing him a deputy Surveyor of Land in that County, dated *October 1772*, to which he has qualified; and that it was generally known in the County before his election, that he would be appointed to that Office: whereupon the Committee came to the following resolution, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that M^r *Robert Doack* is incapable of sitting or voting as a Member of this House.

The said *Resolution* being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor, to order a new Writ to issue, for the electing of a Burgees to serve in this present General Assembly for the County of *Fincastle*, in the room of M^r *Robert Doack*, who, since his Election for the said County, hath accepted the Office of deputy Surveyor of Land in the said County; and that M^r *Christian* do wait upon his Excellency with the said Address.

M^r *Treasurer* reported from the Committee for Religion, to whom the Petition of several Members of the Vestry of the Parish of *Saint Anne*, in the County of *Albemarle*, praying that the said Vestry may be dissolved, was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petition, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterward delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolution of the Committee was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the said Petition is reasonable.

The said *Resolution* being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that a Bill be brought in pursuant to the said Resolution; and that the Committee for Religion do prepare, and bring in the same.

A *Petition* of *Nathaniel Lyttleton Savage* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that he is seised in fee tail of eleven hundred and forty eight Acres of Land in the Parish of *Hungars* in the County of *Northampton*, purchased by him of *Kendal Lee*, and *Betty* his Wife, and settled on the Petitioner by an Act¹ of General Assembly, made in the tenth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty; and that it would be of advantage to the Petitioner and his Heir and family to sell the said Land, and to settle Slaves, of equal value, to be annexed to other intailed Lands of the Petitioner, to the same Uses; and therefore praying that leave may be given, to bring in a Bill for that Purpose.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the prayer of the said Petition; and that M^r *Bowdoin* and M^r *Burton* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A *Petition* of *James Scott*, junior, of the County of *Fauquier*, was presented to the House, and read, setting forth, that the Petitioner is seised in feettail of and in a certain Tract of Land, on *Carters Run*, in the Parish of *Leeds*, in the County of *Fauquier*, which by the Patent is supposed to contain two thousand eight hundred and twenty three Acres, but on a resurvey which the Petitioner was obliged to make in consequence of Notice to do so, is found to include within the bounds thereof seven hundred and ten Acres of surplus Land, to secure a title to which the Petitioner has been put to considerable expence; that the Petitioner is seised in fee simple of and in four hundred Acres of Land, on *Cedar Run*, in the said County, which is improved, and of equal value to the said surplus land; and that he is also seised in fee simple of and in three hundred and two Acres adjoining the said Seven hundred and ten Acres of surplus, which added thereto would make a convenient settlement for a younger Son; and praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill to dock the intail of the said Seven hundred and ten Acres

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 468.

Acres of surplus land, and vest the same in the Petitioner in fee simple, and to settle the said four hundred Acres on *Cedar Run* in lieu thereof.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill purfuant to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr *Richard Henry Lee* and Mr *Henry Lee* do prepare and bring in the same.

Fielding Lewis, Richard Brooke, George Taylor, Seth Thornton, and John Buckner, Gentlemen, five of the Persons named in the Act of General Assembly, made in the twelfth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty; intituled *An Act to appoint Commissioners to strike a dividing line between the Counties of Stafford and King George*, in pursuance of the said Act reported, that they had laid off the dividing line in manner following, to wit, Beginning at the Mouth of *Muddy Creek*, on *Rappahanock River*, and running up the said Creek, and the North West branch thereof, to a small red Oak Maple and Parfimon Trees, at or near the head of the said Branch, and between the Plantations of *Thomas* and *James Jones*, thence North Seventy one degrees East twenty five Poles to a Spring, said to be the head Spring of *Whipsewaughon Creek*, thence down the said Creek to *Potowmack Creek*, thence down *Potowmack Creek* to *Potowmack River*, and thence down the said River purfuing the old bounds of *Stafford* and *King George*, until it strikes *Rappahanock River*, thence up the said River to the beginning, at the Mouth of *Muddy Creek*; being the boundary of the lower County; and for the upper County, proceeding from the Mouth of *Potowmack Creek* up the River *Potowmack* to the corner of *Stafford County*, on the said River, thence along the line of *Stafford* and *King George* to the River *Rappahanock*, thence down the River *Rappahanock* to the dividing line at the Mouth of *Muddy Creek* along the dividing line to the beginning.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill to alter and establih the boundaries of the Counties of *Stafford* and *King George*, according to the said Report; and that Mr *Jones*, Mr *Fitzhugh* and Mr *Page* do prepare, and bring in the same.

*A Petition*² of *Monoah Singleton* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that having been summoned by a Writ of *Venire facias*, as a Juryman upon the tryal of one *John Booth*, a Criminal sent from the County of *Orange*, to be tried in the General Court, the Petitioner travelled from the said County the distance of one hundred and thirty five Miles, and attended the said Court accordingly, in the Year 1770, but that, by some mistake, no allowance hath yet been made for the said travelling and Attendance; and therefore praying that he may have an allowance for the same.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Mr *Bland* reported from the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, to whom several Petitions were referred, that the Committee had examined the matters of the said Petitions; and had come to several Resolutions thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of the Rector and Vestrymen of the Parish of *Saint Thomas*, in the County of *Orange*, praying that they may be enabled to fell the present Glebe, and purchase a new one, be rejected.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of divers Inhabitants of the same Parish, and County, in opposition thereto, is reaonable.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of divers Inhabitants of the County of *Accomack*, praying that the Warehouses at *Guilford Creek* may be discontinued, and new Warehouses erected at a place called *Finley's Point* is reaonable.

¹¹⁷ *Resolved*, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of divers Inhabitants of the County of *Pittsylvania*, praying that a public Ferry may be establihed across

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 601.

² Miscellaneous Papers, May 5-26, 1774.

across *Dan* River, from the Land of *John Owens*, to the land of *Sylvester Adams*, is reasonable.

The said *Resolutions* being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the third of the said *Resolutions* do lie upon the Table.

Ordered, that a Bill be brought in pursuant to the fourth of the said *Resolutions*, and that the Committee of Propositions and Grievances do prepare, and bring in the same.

A *Petition* of fundry Inhabitants of that part of the Parish of *Botetourt* which is the County of *Fincastle*, whose names are thereunto subcribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the said Parish being two hundred Miles in length, and sixty Miles in Width, is too extensive for one Minister to officiate in; and therefore praying that the County of *Fincastle* may be one distinct Parish, and, that the Money levied on the Petitioners for purchasing a Glebe and building Churches in the County of *Botetourt*, may be refunded.

Ordered, that the said *Petition* be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Religion; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

A *Petition* of several Persons living near *New* River, whose names are thereunto subcribed, was presented to the House, and read; praying that a public ferry may be established over the said River on the Lands of *William Herbert*.

Ordered, that the said *Petition* be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, and that they do examine the matter thereof and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning eleven of the Clock.

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Wednesday, the 11th of May, 14 Geo. III. 1774.

A *Petition* of *Arthur Dent*¹ was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner, who was a private Soldier in the *Virginia* Regiment, commanded by Colonel *Washington*, whilst he was in that service, was so wounded that he is unable to support himself, and is at this time destitute of Neceſſaries, and therefore praying Relief.

Ordered, that the said *Petition* be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

M^r Bowdoin presented to the House according to Order, a Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *Nathaniel Lyttleton Savage* is feised in fee tail, and for Settling Slaves of greater value, in lieu thereof; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

A *Petition* of *Charles Hunt* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner had discovered what is in his Opinion a remedy for curing the Dropfy, Nervous Cholic, and Hectic fevers, which he would impart for the benefit of the Public ¹¹⁹ on receiving a reasonable reward; and therefore praying the Consideration of the House.

Ordered, that the said *Petition* be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

M^r Richard Henry Lee presented to the House, according to order, A Bill for reviving an Act, intituled *An Act² for the better regulating and disciplining the Militia*; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved,

¹ Miscellaneous Papers, May 5-26, 1774.

² Hening's, VIII, p. 503.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a second time.

The *Bill* was accordingly read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

Ordered, that Mr *Christian* and Mr *Charles Lewis* be added to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

Mr *Richard Henry Lee* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill for further continuing an Act, intituled *An Act¹ for reducing the several Acts of Assembly for making Provision against Invasions and Insurrections* into one Act, and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a second time.

The *Bill* was accordingly read a second time.

¹²⁰ *Resolved*, that the Bill be committed to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

Ordered, that Mr *Charles Lewis* be added to the Committee of Public Claims.

Mr *Richard Henry Lee* presented to the House according to Order, a Bill for further continuing an Act intituled *An Act² for amending the Staple of Tobacco, and for preventing frauds in his Majesty's Customs*; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a second time.

The *Bill* was accordingly read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

A *Petition* of the Proprietors of sundry Warehouses for inspection of Tobacco, on *James* and *Appamattox* Rivers, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth that close Houses for the reception of Tobacco, which by Law the Petitioners are obliged to provide, are very expensive, and attended with inconvenience to those concerned in stowing away and delivering out Tobacco; that most of the said Warehouses having been erected before the Law requiring them to be inclosed was enacted, the inclosing them now will render them almost useless, by reason of their crowded and irregular situation, so that, if the said Law continues in force, the Petitioners must remove them, and build others at an expence which the Rents of their Inspections will not defray; and therefore praying that the said Law may be so altered as that the Owners of such ¹²¹ Warehouses may be allowed to surround all the Houses at each inspection with one sufficient Pallisade of Posts and Plank, having Doors well secured by Locks, insteads of inclosing every House separately, or that the Petitioners may be relieved in such other manner as the House shall think proper.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Mr *Richard Henry Lee* presented to the House according to order, a Bill for further continuing an Act³ intituled *An Act for the more effectual keeping the public Roads and Bridges in repair*; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a second time.

The *Bill* was accordingly read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

A *Memorial* of sundry Inspectors of Tobacco on *James* and *Appamattox* Rivers was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that a strict compliance with the Law requiring Warehouses for inspection of Tobacco to be with close Walls, will lay the Memorialists under great inconveniencies and difficulties in stowing away searching for

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 514.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 232.

³ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 542.

for and delivering Tobacco, on account of the crowded and irregular situation of many of the said Houses; and therefore proposing that the Proprietors may be allowed to inclose their several Inspections with a sufficient Pallisade of Posts and Plank, having strong Doors secured by good Locks, and to make provision for the Punishment of those who shall steal Tobacco out of such inclosures. ¹²²

Ordered, that the said Memorial be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

M^r Richard Henry Lee presented to the House, according to order; a Bill for reviving an Act, intituled *An Act¹ for keeping in Repair several Roads, and for other purposes therein mentioned*; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a second time.

The *Bill* was accordingly read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

A *Petition* of fundry Inhabitants of the Counties of Albemarle and Buckingham, whose names are thereunto subcribed, was presented to the House, and read, praying that a public ferry may be establisched over the *Fluvanna* River, from the land of *Joseph Taylor*, in the County of *Buckingham*, to the land of *Walter King*, in the County of *Albemarle*.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

M^r Richard Henry Lee presented to the House, according to order; a Bill for reviving An Act, intituled *An Act² for the better regulating and collecting certain Officers fees, and for other purposes therein mentioned*; and the same was received and read the first time. ¹²³

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a second time.

The *Bill* was accordingly read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

A *Message* from the Governor by M^r Blair:

M^r Speaker,

I am commanded by the Governor to deliver a written Message from his Excellency to this House with several Papers therein mentioned; and he presented the same at the Bar; and the Message was read by M^r Speaker, and is as followeth, viz.

M^r Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Burgeſſes,

I had lately an opportunity of observing the defenceleſſ state of a confiderable Body of his Majesty's Subjects ſettled in that part of the Country, which is contiguous to the western boundary of the Province of Pennsylvania, and, from all I was able to learn, within the limits of this Colony I thought it my duty therefore, in compliance with the intreaties of the People themſelves, to appoint Officers to assemble a Militia, conformable to the laws of this Colony, that might defend them in any Emergency, and Magistrates to preserve order and obedience to these Laws among them. But the Proprietary Governor of Pennsylvania pretending a Claim to this Country in Question, which, being ſupported no other wife than by his own Aſſertions, founded on a partial Survey, I could not think myſelf Justifiable in admitting, and accordingly have, with the advice of his Majesty's Council, taken ſuch Steps as the Law allowed to inforce the Authority of this Government in that diſtrict, until his Majesty's Pleaſure ſhall be known. And not doubting that whatever concerns the particular rights of any part of the Country is highly interesting to the whole, I take this opportunity of offering all the Papers, which relate to this affair, to the inspection of the House ¹²⁴

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 543.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 515.

House of Burgeffes, and recommend that, as you will discover it is the intention of the Government of Pennsylvania to obstruct by every possible means the Authority of the Government of Virginia in the disputed district, you will consider whether any provision be not necessary to be made, to render the legal Powers of the Officers and Magistrates in the said district effectual.

DUNMORE.

And the said *Papers* mentioned in the said Message were read.

Ordered, that the said Message and Papers be referred to the Consideration of a Committee of the whole House.

Resolved, that this House will now Resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider of the Governors Message, and the Papers therein mentioned.

The House accordingly resolved itself into the said Committee.

Mr Speaker left the Chair.

125 Mr Bland took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Mr Bland reported from the Committee, that they had made a Progress in the matters referred to them, and that he was directed by the Committee to move, that they may have leave to sit again.

Resolved, that this House will Tomorrow Resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider further of the Governor's Message, and the Papers therein mentioned.

Mr Richard Henry Lee presented to the House according to order a Bill for reviving an Act intituled *An Act¹ for reviving the duty upon Slaves to be paid by the Buyers for the term therein mentioned*, and one other Act, intituled *An Act² to oblige Persons bringing Slaves into this Colony from Maryland, Carolina and the West Indies, for their own use, to pay a duty*; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to the Committee of Trade.

A Message from the Governor by Mr Blair:

Mr Speaker,

The Governor is now ready to receive the Address of your House in the Council Chamber.

Accordingly Mr Speaker, with the House, went up; and being returned, he reported 126 that the House had attended the Governor with their Address, to which his Excellency was pleased to give this Answer.

Gentlemen of the House of Burgeffes,

The terms of duty and Gratitude in which your Loyal Address is conceived afford me the highest satisfaction, and must ensure his Majesty's most favorable Countenance and protection to this faithful Colony.

I shall ever retain a cordial remembrance of the parts you take in my domestick happiness and of your obliging manner of expressing it on the occasion of the arrival of my Family, which event I shall be much pleased to find considered as a pledge of my regard and attachment to this Country.

Ordered, that Mr LeGrand have leave to be absent from the service of this House until Monday Sevenight.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning eleven of the Clock.

Thursday.

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 190.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 191.

Thursday, the 12th of May, 14 Geo. III. 1774.

Mr Speaker acquainted the House, that the Governor had delivered to him a letter to his Excellency from Mr *John Connolly*, received yesterday, containing an Account of some late Hostilities commenced by the Indians, and desired him to lay the said Letter before the House; and he delivered the same in at the Clerk's Table.

Ordered, that the said Letter do lie upon the Table.

A *Petition* of fundry Persons of the Community of Christians, called *Baptists* and other Protestant dissenters, whose names are thereunto subſcribed, was preſented to the Houſe, and read; ſetting forth, that the Toleration propoſed by the Bill, ordered at the laſt Seſſion of the General Assembly to be printed and published, not admitting public Worſhip, except in the day time, is inconsistent with the laws of *England*, as well as the Practice and Uſage of the Primitive Churches, and even of the English Church itſelf; that the Night ſeaſon may ſometimes be better ſpared by the Petitioners from the neceſſary duties of their callings; and that they wiſh for no indulgences which may diſturb the Peace of Government; and therefore praying the Houſe to take their Caſe into Conſideration, and to grant them ſuitable redreſs.

Ordered, that the ſaid Petition be referred to the Conſideration of the Committee for Religion; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the ſame, with their Opinion thereupon, to the Houſe.

Mr *Richard Henry Lee* reported from the Committee for Courts of Juſtice, that the Committee had further inquired what Laws have expired ſince the laſt Seſſion, or will expire with the end of this Seſſion or are near expiring, and had come to a Reſolution, which they had directed him to report to the Houſe; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Reſolution of the Committee was read and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Act of Assembly made in the tenth Year of the Reign of his preſent Maſteſty, intituled *An Act to prevent the exhorbitant exactions of the Collectors of the County and Parish levies* which will expire with the end of this preſent Seſſion of Assembly, ought to be further continued.

Ordered, that a Bill be brought in puruant to the ſaid Reſolutions; and that the ſaid Committee do prepare and bring in the ſame.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill for allowing a free Toleration to his Maſteſty's Protestant Subjects in this Colony, who diſſent from the Church of England; and that the Committee for Religion do prepare and bring in the ſame.

A *Petition* of *Thomas Patterson*,¹ of the County of *Buckingham*, was preſented to the Houſe, and read, ſetting forth that a negro Man Slave, named Tom, belonging to Petitioner, who had committed Murder and run away, was duly outlawed in *May*, 1773, and was afterwards found dead, having ſhot himſelf as it is ſuppoſed with a Gun he had ſtolen, to prevent his being apprehended and tried for the ſaid Offence, and therefore praying to be allowed the value of the ſaid Slave.

Ordered, that the ſaid Petition be referred to the Conſideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the ſame with their Opinion thereupon, to the Houſe.

A *Petition* of the Inhabitants of the Borough of *Norfolk* was preſented to the Houſe, and read; ſetting forth, that a Bridge built by Subscription over the Creek, which divided the Main Street, leading to the Public Wharf, from *Catharine* Street, in the ſaid Borough, had lately fallen down; and that the ſaid Bridge, whiſt it ſtood, was very convenient to the Petitioners and many others; and therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill to enable the Mayor Aldermen and Common Council of the ſaid Borough to aſſeſs a Tax upon the inhabitants thereof, for building and keeping in repair a Bridge over the Creek aforeraid, and alſo ſuch other Bridge or Bridges

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 381.

• *Miſcellaneous Papers*, May 5-26, 1774.

Bridges for the Conveniency of the said Inhabitants as may be now built, or may be thought necessary to be built hereafter.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill purfuant to the prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr *Hutchings*, Mr *Bland*, Mr *Holt* and Mr *Newton* do prepare, and bring in the same.

The *Order* of the Day being read, for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider further of the Governor's Message, and the Papers therein mentioned.

Ordered, that the Letter to his Excellency from Mr *John Connolly*, which was ordered to lie upon the Table, be referred to the said Committee.

Then the House resolved itself into the said Committee.

Mr *Speaker* left the Chair.

Mr *Bland* took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr *Speaker* resumed the Chair.

Mr *Bland* reported from the Committee that they had come to a Resolution which they had directed him to report to the House, when the House will please to receive the same.

Ordered, that the Report be now received.

^{128.1} Mr *Bland* accordingly reported the Resolution which the Committee had directed him to report to the House, which he read in his Place, and afterwards delivered in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that an Addrefs be presented to the Governor, to represent how desirous we are of continuing in friendship with our Sister Colony of *Pennsylvania*; and that we are very forry that any Circumstances should happen that tend to create any diffention between us; that, however, we should be deficient in our duty, if we did not support the just Rights of our People, and protect them from Oppression, from whatever quarter it may arise; that in a dispute about a Boundary which never has been establisched, with any degree of Accuracy, or certainty, to subiect the Officers on either side, acting under the Authority of Government, to imprisonment, and Death, is deviating widely from that plain and simple Plan of Accomodation, which has been oberved in former Contefts of this Nature, and would have suggefted a more Conciliatory conduct; to recommend to his Excellency the fixing a temporary line between this Colony and *Pennsylvania*, until his Majesty shall direct the true and proper boundary to be establisched, and to request him to exert the Powers vested in him, by the Act of Assembly, for making Provisions against Invasions and Insurrections,¹ which we doubt not, will be sufficient for the prefent to repel the Attacks of the *Indians*, who have perfidiously commenced Hostilities against his Majesty's Colonies.

^{129.1} The said *Resolution* being read a fecond time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to draw up an Addrefs to be presented to the Governor upon the said Resolution.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Bland*, Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Cary*, Mr *Richard Henry Lee*, and Mr *Harrison*.

Mr *Jones* presented to the House according to Order, a Bill for altering and establisching the boundaries of the Counties of *Stafford* and *King George*; and the same was received and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a fecond time.

Mr *Richard Henry Lee* presented to the House according to Order, a Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *James Scott*, the Younger, is feised and for fettling other Lands, in lieu thereof; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a fecond time.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a fecond time.

The Bill was accordingly read a fecond time.

Resolved,

¹ *Hening's*, VIII, p. 514.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to Mr *Richard Henry Lee*, Mr *Henry Lee*, Mr *Peyton*, Mr *West*, Mr *Field*, and Mr *Henry Pendleton*.

A *Petition* of *John West* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth that the Petitioner is seised in fee tail of two thousand six hundred and ten Acres of Land in the Parish of *Saint John*, in the County of *King William*; and that he hath two Sons and several Daughters, and is desirous of making some Provision for his Younger Children, which he is unable to do for want of a sufficient number of Slaves; and therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill to dock the intail of the said two thousand six hundred and ten Acres of Land, and settle other Lands with Slaves annexed in lieu thereof. 130

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill, pursuant to the prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr *Aylett* do prepare and bring in the same.

The other *Order* of the Day being read;

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into Consideration the Governor's Speech.

Mr *Speaker* left the Chair.

Mr *Bland* took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr *Speaker* resumed the Chair.

Mr *Bland* reported that the Committee had not come to any Resolution.

Mr *Bland* reported from the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, to whom several Petitions were referred, that the Committee had examined the matters of the said Petitions, and had come to several Resolutions thereupon, which they had directed him to Report to the House; and he read the report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of the Proprietors of Warehouses for the Inspection of Tobacco, on the upper parts of *James* and *Appomattox* Rivers, praying that they may be severally allowed to inclose the said Warehouses with one sufficient Pallisade of Posts and Plank secured with Doors and Locks, instead of inclosing every House separately, is reasonable. 131

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of the Inspectors of Tobacco at the Warehouses on the Upper Parts of *James* and *Appomattox* Rivers, to the same purport, is reasonable.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *Charles Hunt*, that he may be allowed a reward for communicating to the Public the Remedy he hath discovered for curing certain diseases, be rejected.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee that the Petition of divers Inhabitants of the County of *Henrico*, setting forth, that the Warehouses at *Shockoe* and *Byrds* Inspection are not sufficient to hold the Tobacco's brought there, and praying that another Inspection may be established on the land of *Charles Lewis* between the River and Main Road leading to *Rocket's* landing, be rejected.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of divers Inhabitants on *New River* praying that a public Ferry may be established across the said River, from the land of *William Herbert* on one side, to his land, on the opposite shore, is reasonable.

The said *Resolutions* being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that it be an instruction to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, to whom the Bill for further continuing an Act intituled *An Act¹ for amending the Staple of Tobacco, and for preventing frauds in his Majesty's Customs*, is committed, that they have Power to receive a Clause or Clauses pursuant to the first and second Resolutions of the said Committee, which were this day reported, and agreed to by the House. 132

Ordered.

¹ *Hening's*, VIII, p. 232.

Ordered, that it be an Instruction to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, who are appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill pursuant to the fourth Resolution of the said Committee, which was reported to the House upon *Tuesday* last, and which was agreed to by the House, that they have Power to receive a Clause or Clauses pursuant to the fifth Resolution of the said Committee, which was this day reported, and agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that it be an Instruction to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, to whom the Bill for further continuing an Act, intituled *An Act for amending the Staple of Tobacco, and for preventing frauds in his Majesty's Customs*, is committed, that they have Power to receive a Clause or Clauses pursuant to the third Resolution of the said Committee, which was reported to the House upon *Tuesday* last, and which was agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that Mr *Tabb* and Mr *Talbot* be added to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

Ordered, that Mr *Talbot* and Mr *Field* be added to the Committee of Public Claims.

183

Ordered, that Mr *Field* be added to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

Ordered, that Mr *Tabb* be added to the Committee of Trade.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, eleven of the Clock.

Friday, the 13th of May, 14 Geo. III. 1774.

A Petition of the freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Borough of *Norfolk*, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth that the Petitioners conceive the Act of General Assembly made in the twenty second Year of the Reign of King *George the Second*, intituled *An Act¹ concerning Highways, Mill Dams and Bridges*, as to the Provision made thereby for the laying out clearing and repairing Roads, to be unequal and oppressive, and particularly detrimental to the Petitioners; and praying that the Inhabitants of the said Borough may be exempted from all kinds of Service upon any Highway or Road without the limits thereof, and that the expence of laying and clearing and repairing the Streets, Caufeways and Alleys in the said Borough may be defrayed by a Tax, to be affessed upon the said Inhabitants.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of a Committee; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

And it is referred to Mr *Hutchings*, Mr *Bland*, Mr *Holt*, and Mr *Newton*.

184 Mr *Richard Henry Lee* presented to the House according to Order, a Bill for continuing an Act, intituled *An Act² to prevent the exorbitant exactions of the Collectors of the County and Parish levies*; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

A Petition of *William Brown* and *John Sturdivant*, Inspectors of Tobacco at *Blandford* Warehouse, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioners had taken at the said Warehouse a larger quantity of Tobacco, the two last Years, than they used to take in any of the preceeding Years, so that they were obliged to keep two able Hands to assist them in their busines; and that at the last Session of General Assembly, their Salaries were reduced from Seventy to Sixty Pounds per Annum, which they humbly conceive to be not adequate to their labour trouble and expence, in inspecting and taking care of three thousand Houghheads of Tobacco, and therefore praying the House to take their Case into Consideration, and grant them such Relief as shall seem just.

Ordered,

¹ *Hening's*, VI, p. 64.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 381.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A Petition of *Nathaniel Rains* and *John Watts*, junior, Inspectors of Tobacco at *Boyd's Warehouse*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioners had taken at the said Warehouse a larger quantity of Tobacco, the two last Years, than they used to take in any of the preceding Years, so that they were obliged ¹³⁵ to keep two able Hands to assist them in their business, and that, at the last Session of General Assembly, their Salaries were reduced from Seventy to Sixty Pounds per Annum, which they humbly conceive to be not adequate to their labour trouble and expence, in inspecting and taking care of three thousands Hogsheads of Tobacco; and therefore praying the House to take their Case into Consideration, and grant them such Relief as shall seem just.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

Mr *Richard Henry Lee* reported from the Committee to whom the Bill to dock the intail of certain lands whereof *James Scott*, the younger, is seised, and for settling other Lands, in lieu thereof, was committed, that the Committee had examined the Allegations of the Bill, and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had directed him to report the Bill to the House without any Amendment; and he delivered the Bill in at the Clerk's Table.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

A Petition of fundry Inhabitants on *Carr's Creek*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the said Creek divides the Counties of *Augusta* and *Botetourt*, and that the Petitioners, whose lands lie on both sides thereof are thereby put to unnecessary trouble in procuring Hemp Certificates; ¹³⁶ and praying that the said Counties may be divided by a Line beginning on the bank of the *North River*, at or near the Mouth of *Hall's Creek*, and running along a barren Ridge to the top of the *North Mountain*, and along the *North Mountain*, to the old Line, above the head of *Carr's Creek*.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A Petition of several of the Vestry of the Parish of *Shelburne*, in the County of *Loudoun*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioners understand that the Reverend *David Griffith*, Clerk, Rector of the said Parish, will apply to the General Assembly for an alteration of the Act made in the thirty second Year of the Reign of King George the second, intituled *An Act¹ to enable the Inhabitants of the County of Loudoun to pay their public dues and Officers Fees in Money, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*; and praying that the said Act may continue unaltered.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Religion; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Ordered, that the Committee of Propositions and Grievances be discharged from proceeding upon the Petition of *David Griffith*, Clerk, Rector of the Parish of *Shelburne* ¹³⁷ in the County of *Loudoun*, which came certified to this Assembly, praying that the Act of General Assembly, allowing the Inhabitants of the said County to discharge their public dues in Money, at the rate of twelve shillings and sixpence per hundred for the Tobacco, as to so much thereof as relates to the Petitioners Salary, may be repealed.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Religion and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion, thereupon to the House.

Mr

¹ *Hening's*, VII, p. 292.

Mr Treasurer reported from the Committee, appointed to draw up an Address to be presented to the Governor, that they had drawn up an Address accordingly, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the same in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

My Lord,

We his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Burgesses of Virginia now sitting in General Assembly, beg leave to return your Excellency our sincere Thanks for the written Message, and the several Papers therein referred to, which you were pleased to lay before us.

It is our most earnest wish and desire to cultivate and improve that good understanding and Friendship, which hath hitherto subsisted between our Sister Colony of Pennsylvania and Virginia, and therefore we cannot sufficiently lament that any unhappy Incident should 188 have interposed which may tend to destroy this pleasing Harmony, and create any dissension between us. But, my Lord, however strongly we may be impressed by these Sentiments, we shall on all Occasions, think it our indispensable Duty to support the just Rights of our Inhabitants and protect them from Oppression in whatever Quarter it may arise.

The imprisoning Officers acting under the Authority of Government in either Country, upon a dispute about a boundary, which appears to us never to have been established with any degree of Accuracy, we cannot but consider as a wide departure and deviation from that plain and simple plan of Accommodation, which has been observed on former Contests of this nature, and should have suggested a more Conciliatory conduct on this Occasion; much more should we have expected, that it would have prevented that Sanguinary measure of subjecting Men to death, which with concern, we observe hath been so precipitately and incautiously adopted.

For the present, we take the liberty of recommending to your Excellency, to endeavour to have an equitable temporary Line fixed between this Colony and Pennsylvania, until his Majesty shall be pleased to direct the proper and true boundary to be established.

It gives us pain, My Lord, to find that the Indians have made fresh Encroachments and disturbances on our Frontiers; we have only to request, that your Excellency will be pleased to exert those Powers with which you are fully invested by the Act of Assembly, for 189 making Provision against Invasions and Insurrections, which, we doubt not, will be found sufficient to repel the hostile and perfidious Attempts of those savage and barbarous Enemies.

The said Address being read a second time.

Resolved, that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Address, to be presented to the Governor.

Ordered, that the said Address be presented to his Excellency by the whole House.

Ordered, that the Gentlemen¹ who drew up the said Address, do wait upon the Governor, to know his pleasure when this House shall attend his Excellency, to present their Address.

Mr Cary reported from the Committee of Public Claims, to whom the Petition of Arthur Dent,² a Soldier in the Virginia Regiment, was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petition, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolution of the Committee was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of the Committee, that the Petitioner ought to be allowed the sum of twenty five pounds, for his present Relief, and the further sum of five Pounds per annum, during his life as a recompence for the Wounds he received in the Service of the Country.

The said Resolution being read a second Time, was upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

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¹ Mr Bland, Mr Nicholas, Mr Cary, Mr R. H. Lee, Mr Harrison.

² Miscellaneous Papers, 3-26, 1774.

A Petition of *Thomas Fisher* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, ¹⁴⁰ that the Petitioner is seized in fee tail of four hundred and forty four Acres of land, in the Parish of Hungars, in the County of *Northampton*, and that it would be of advantage to the Petitioner, and his Heir and Family, to vest the said Land in him in fee simple, and settle other Land and Slaves, of equal value, in lieu thereof; and praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for that purpose.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the prayer of the said Petition; and that M^r *Bowdoin* and M^r *Burton* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *Nathaniel Lyttleton Savage* is seized in fee tail, and for settling Slaves of greater value, in lieu thereof, was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to M^r *Bowdoin*, M^r *Burton*, and M^r *James Henry*.

M^r *Cary* reported from the Committee of public Claims, to whom the Petition of *Thomas Patterson* was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petition, and had directed him to report the same, as it appeared to them, together with the Resolution of the Committee thereupon, to the House, and he read the report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

It appears to your Committee, that the Slave *Tom*, in the Petition mentioned, ¹⁴¹ committed a Murder on a white Woman, and immediately ran away, taking with him two of his Masters Guns; that he was duly outlawed, and being sought for by the Sheriff of the County, in Company with several other Persons, was found Dead, and one of the Guns lying by him, with which it was supposed he had shot himself; and that the said Slave was, by the Court of the County of *Buckingham*, valued at Eighty five Pounds: whereupon the Committee came to the following Resolution:

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petitioner ought to be allowed the sum of Eighty five Pounds for the said Slave.

The said Resolution being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

A Bill for altering and establishing the boundaries of the Counties of *Stafford* and *King George* was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

Ordered, that the Petition of the upper Inhabitants of the County of *Stafford*, praying that, if the Counties of *Stafford* and *King George* should be divided by the Line made in pursuance of the Act¹ of General Assembly appointing Commissioners to strike the said Line, the upper County may be called by the name of *Stafford*, which was ordered to lie upon the Table, be referred to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances to whom the Bill for altering and establishing the boundaries of the Counties of *Stafford* and *King George* is committed.

Ordered, that it be an Instruction to the Committee of Public Claims, that they ¹⁴² make an allowance in the Book of Claims of the sum of fifteen Pounds to M^r *Robert Doack*, who was elected to serve as a Burgees in this present General Assembly for the County of *Fincastle*, for travelling to the former and this Session, and for his Attendance at the latter.

Ordered, that M^r *DuVal* have leave to be absent from the service of this House until Monday Sevenight.

A Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *Thomas Jefferson* and *Martha* his Wife, in right of the said *Martha*, are seized in fee tail, for vesting the same in *Henry Skipwith*, Gentleman, and for settling other lands, of equal value, to the same Uses was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to M^r *Bland*, M^r *Cary*, M^r *Woodson*, M^r *Thomas Mann Randolph*, and M^r *Fleming*.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, eleven of the Clock.

Saturday.

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 601.

Saturday, the 14th of May, 14 Geo. III. 1774.

MR. *Bland* reported to the House, that the Governor, having been waited upon, pursuant to the order of Yesterday, to know his pleasure when he would be attended by this House had been pleased to appoint to be attended this day in the Council Chamber.

A *Petition* of several Persons, whose names are thereunto subscribed, taking notice ¹⁴³ of an Application intended to be made to this House for a public Ferry over *James River*, from the fork at the Conflux of the *Rivanna* and *Fluvanna*, in the County of *Albemarle*, to the land belonging to the Estate of *Philip Mayo*, Esquire, deceased, in the County of *Cumberland*, and setting forth, that the advantage the Public can derive from such Ferry will be trifling, and that the Roads leading to it will be very inconvenient to the lands through which they pass; and therefore praying that the said ferry may not be Established; And also

A *Petition* of *George Carrington*, Guardian of *Joseph Mayo*, an Infant, taking Notice of the said intended application for a Ferry at the place aforesaid, and setting forth, that the Road to it must run through the body of a small but very valuable Plantation of the Petitioner, and that the public is already well served with Ferries to which there are good Roads near the same place; and therefore praying that the Petition for the Ferry may be rejected;

Were severally *presented* to the House, and read.

Ordered, that the said Petitions be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

M^r Bowdoin reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill to dock the intail of certain lands whereof *Nathaniel Lyttleton Savage* is seised in Fee Tail, and for settling Slaves, of greater value, in lieu thereof, was committed, that the Committee had examined the Allegations of the Bill, and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had directed him to report the Bill to the House without any Amendment; and he delivered the Bill in at the Clerk's Table.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

An engrossed Bill to dock the Intail of certain Lands whereof *James Scott*, the younger, is seised, and for settling other lands in lieu thereof, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act to dock the intail of certain lands whereof James Scott, the younger, is seised, and for settling other lands in lieu thereof.*

Ordered, that **M^r Richard Henry Lee** do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Several *Members* some of whom were returned upon new Writs having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and subscribed the Test, took their Places in the House.

M^r Bowdoin presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *Thomas Fisher* is seised, and for settling other lands and Slaves, of greater value, to the same Uses; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

A Bill for continuing an Act intituled *An Act to prevent the exorbitant exactions of the Collectors of the County and Parish levies*, was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

A *Message* from the Governor by **M^r Blair**:

M^r Speaker,

The Governor is now ready to receive the Address of your House in the Council Chamber.

Accordingly

Accordingly M^r Speaker, with the House, went up, and being returned he reported, that the House had attended the Governor with their Address, to which his Excellency was pleased to give this Answer:

M^r Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses,

I return you my sincere Thanks for this Address, and shall be ready, conformable to your Advice, to agree to an equitable temporary Line between this Colony and Pennsylvania, if I find it proposed, or, if that Government proceeds in that violent manner in which it has begun, to exert the Powers, with which I am vested, to protect the Inhabitants, who are exposed to such ill treatment.

I have too much experience of your inclination to advance the prosperity of the Colony, by all means in your Power, to suppose, that anything could have determined you not to enable me to raise a sufficient force for repelling the Attempts of the Indians, but your seeing the matter in a light different from that I view it in. The Militia, to which I must have recourse, unless you think fit to alter your Measures, I cannot but consider as altogether unequal to the present occasion: and I think it my duty to mention that a regular force, subject to discipline, and raised in the very beginning of this disturbance, by which the Indians may perceive our determined Resolution to chastise them, would probably save in the end a much greater expence, and therefore, instead of burthening, become a relief to 146 your Constituents, while at the same time it affords them an effectual protection of their dearest Interests.

M^r Attorney General¹ reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill to confirm the Titles to sundry Houses and Lots of Land, whereof *Nathaniel Walthoe*, Esquire, died seised, to the purchasers thereof, was committed, that the Committee had examined the Allegations of the Bill, and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had directed him to report the Bill to the House, without any Amendment; and he delivered the Bill in at the Clerk's Table.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

Ordered, that M^r Carrington, M^r Winn, M^r Woodson, M^r Claiborne, M^r Rutherford, and M^r Joseph Cabell be added to the Committee for Religion.

Ordered, that M^r Carrington, be added to the Committee of Privileges and Elections.

Ordered, that M^r Carrington, M^r Woodson, M^r Joseph Cabell, and M^r Rutherford be added to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

Ordered, that M^r Woodson, M^r Burton, M^r Joseph Cabell and M^r Winn be added to the Committee of Public Claims.

Ordered, that M^r Woodson and M^r Claiborne be added to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

Ordered, that M^r Winn be added to the Committee of Trade.

And then the House adjourned till Monday Morning next eleven of the Clock.

Monday, the 16th of May, 14 Geo. III. 1774.

A Petition of sundry of the Inhabitants of the Parish of *Albemarle*, in the County of *Suffex*, whose Names are thereunto subscribed was presented to the House and read, setting forth, that the said Parish being very extensive, and having no less than four Churches in it, the Minister thereof cannot perform his Duty as it ought to be done; and that the number of Tithables resident in the said Parish, according to the last Assessment, is two thousand and eight hundred; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for dividing the said Parish into two Parishes, by *Monks Neck Creek*, from *Dinwiddie* County line to *Nottoway* River, thence, from the bank of the River opposite to the Mouth of the said Creek, by a

¹ John Randolph.

a straight line to the mouth of *Hunting Quarter* Run, and thence by *Nottoway* River to *Southampton* County line; *And also.*

A *Petition* of sundry other Inhabitants of the said Parish in opposition thereto, setting forth that a division thereof is contrary to the inclination of much the greater part of the Parishioners, who are yet indebted for additions and repairs to some of their churches; and that the Churches are so situate that, in case of a division, they would not answer the end proposed; and therefore praying that the said Parish may not be divided, or, if it be, that it may be divided Crossways.

Were severally *presented* to the House, and read.

Ordered, that the said Petitions be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Religion, and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with ¹⁴⁸ their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A *Bill* to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *Thomas Fisher* is seised, and for settling other Lands and Slaves, of greater value to the same Uses, was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to *M^r Bowdoin, M^r Burton, and M^r James Henry.*

Ordered, that *M^r Treasurer* do lay his Account before the House.

M^r Cary reported from the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, to whom the Bill for further continuing An *Act*, intituled *An Act¹ for reducing the several Acts of Assembly for making Provision against Invasions and Insurrections into one Act*, was committed, that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made an Amendment thereunto, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendment, in at the Clerk's Table.

Ordered, that the said Bill be recommitted.

Ordered, that the said Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole House.

Resolved, that this House will Tomorrow Resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider of the said Bill.

An ingrossed *Bill* to confirm the Titles to sundry Houses and Lots of Land, whereof *Nathaniel Walthoe*, Esquire, died seised, to the Purchasers thereof, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act to confirm the Titles to sundry Houses and Lots of Land, whereof Nathaniel Walthoe, Esquire, died seised, to the Purchasers thereof.*

Ordered, that *M^r Attorney General* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

M^r Treasurer, according to order, laid his Accounts before the House.

Ordered, that the said Accounts do lie upon the Table, to be perused by the Members of the House.

A *Petition* of Sundry Inhabitants of the Counties of *Chesterfield* and *Amelia*, setting forth, that so great a quantity of Tobacco hath been lately brought to the Warehouse at *Osbornes*, that another Inspection near that place is become necessary; and that a Lot of Land belonging to *Archibald Walthall*, in the Town of *Gateville*, is a proper place for such Inspection; and therefore praying that an Inspection may be established there; *And also*.

A *Petition* of sundry other Inhabitants of the said Counties, in Opposition thereto, praying that, if another Inspection in the Neighborhood of *Osbornes*, be deemed necessary, it may be at *Reid's Point*, on the land of *John Osborne*, which is more convenient than the place proposed at *Gateville*.

Were severally *presented* to the House, and read.

Ordered, that the said Petitions be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

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¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 514.

An ingrossed *Bill* to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *Nathaniel Lyttleton Savage* is feised in fee tail, and for settling Slaves of greater value in lieu thereof was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act to dock the intail of 150 certain Lands whereof Nathaniel Lyttleton Savage is feised in fee tail, and for settling Slaves of greater value, in lieu thereof.*

Ordered that Mr *Bowdoin* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Ordered, that the Committee of Propositions and Grievances be discharged from proceeding upon the Petition of sundry Baptist Ministers, from different parts of this Country, convened together in *Loudoun* County, at their annual Association, which came certified to this Assembly praying that an *Act of Toleration* may be made, giving the Petitioners and other Protestant dissenting Ministers liberty to preach in all proper places, and at all Seafons, without restraint.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Religion; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

A *Petition* of *John Boyd* and several other Persons of the County of *Berkeley* whose Names are thereunto subfcribed, was prefentated to the House, and read, praying that a public ferry may be eftablished over the River *Potomack*, from the land of the said *John Boyd*, in the said County, to the land of Mr *James Johnson* and Company, in the Province of *Maryland*.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the fame with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Another *Member* having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by *Act of Parliament*, and repeated and subfcribed the Test, took his place in the House. 151

Ordered, that Mr *Washington*, Mr *Gray*, Mr *Munford*, and Mr *Syme* be added to the Committee for Religion.

Ordered, that Mr *Riddick*, Mr *Roane*, Mr *Washington*, and Mr *Munford* be added to the Committee of Privileges and Elections.

Ordered, that Mr *Gray*, Mr *Taylor*, Mr *Adams*, Mr *Washington*, Mr *Riddick*, Mr *Syme*, Mr *Munford*, and Mr *Marable* be added to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

Ordered, that Mr *Watkins*, Mr *Taylor*, Mr *Gray*, Mr *Adams*, Mr *Marable*, Mr *Lynch*, Mr *Rutherford*, Mr *Slaughter*, Mr *Terry*, Mr *Zane*, Mr *Coles* and Mr *Hite* be added to the Committee of Public Claims.

Ordered, that Mr *Thornton*, Mr *Gray*, Mr *Taylor*, and Mr *Speed* be added to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

Ordered, that Mr *Stubblefield* and Mr *Adams* be added to the Committee of Trade.
And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, eleven of the Clock.

Tuesday, the 17th of May, 14 Geo. III. 1774.

A Member returned upon a new Writ having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by *Act of Parliament*, and repeated and subfcribed the Test, took his place in the House.

A *Petition* of the Minister and sundry Inhabitants of the Parish of *Saint James*, in the County of *Mecklenburg*, whose Names are thereunto subfcribed, was prefentated to the House, and read; setting forth, that the said Parish is of so large extent, and hath so many Churches in it, that the Petitioners cannot attend divine service, and have the benefit of Communion, so frequently as they desire; and that there are two thousand six hundred and ninety two Tithable Persons in the said Parish; and therefore praying

ing that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for dividing the said Parish, by the Road leading from the *Carolina* line to *Taylor's* ferry, on *Roan Oak* River, and thence running near the Court-House of the said County, to *Meherrin* River, at a Ford on *Wittons* Road.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Religion; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A *Petition* of *John Brander*, Clerk, Minister of the Parish of *Ruffell*, in the County of *Bedford*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the said Parish is very extensive, and the Churches therein far distant from one another; and that the Petitioner is obliged, by virtue of an *Act* of General Assembly, to receive Money for the Tobacco levied for him, at the rate of twelve Shillings and sixpence per hundred Weight, which is less than other Ministers are intitled to; and therefore praying that his Salary may be paid to him at the same price as such other Ministers receive theirs.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Religion; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

¹⁶⁸ A *Petition* of *William Mead*¹ was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that in the Year 1758, three head of Cattle were taken from the Petitioner, for the Use of the Militia of the County of *Amelia*, which he had never received any satisfaction for, not being able till very lately to procure a Certificate, which he hath now obtained from the Commanding Officer, to intitle him thereto; and therefore praying the House to make him such allowance as shall seem just.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Ordered, that *M^r Andrew Lewis*, *M^r Macdowell* and *M^r James Taylor* be added to the Committee for Religion.

Ordered, that *M^r Moseley* be added to the Committee of Privileges and Elections, and Trade.

Ordered, that *M^r James Taylor* be added to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

¹⁶⁹ A *Petition*² of several Members of the *Presbyterian* Church in the County of *Bedford*, whose names are thereunto subcribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that many well dispos'd Persons of their Community had made Contributions to which others are willing to add, for supporting their Clergy in a method more convenient than the ordinary one by subsciptions; but that the pious intentions of such benefactors cannot be effectually carried into execution, the elders of the Church not being incorporated, so as to be capable of taking and holding lands and Slaves for the use of the Minister; and therefore praying that the said Elders may be enabled to take and hold Lands and Slaves to such use, under proper Regulations.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Religion; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A *Petition* of *Boswell Goodwin* and *James Goodwin*, Inspectors of Tobacco at *Bollingbrooke* Warehouses, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that, upon the establishment of two new Inspections at *Blandford* and *Cedar Point*, this House was pleased to reduce the Salaries of the Petitioners from Seventy to Sixty Pounds per Annum, it being supposed that less Tobacco would then be brought to *Bollingbrooke* than had been theretofore; but that, contrariwise, the quantity brought there was considerably encreased; and therefore praying that they may be allowed the Salary they formerly received.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

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¹ *Miscellaneous Papers*, May 5-26, 1774.

² *Ibid.*

A *Petition* of several Persons inhabitants of that part of the Parish of *Beckford*, which was lately taken from the Parish of *Frederick*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that, by means of the alteration in the boundary of the said Parish, the Petitioners are subject to taxation by a Vestry in the Election of whom they had no voice, and therefore praying that the said Vestry may be dissolved. ¹⁵⁵

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Religion; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Ordered, that the Committee for Religion be discharged from proceeding upon the Petition of sundry Inhabitants of the Parish of *Saint James*, in the County of *Mecklenburg*, praying, that the said Vestry may be dissolved.

The said *Petition* was, by leave of the House withdrawn.

A *Petition*¹ of *James Keeling*, a soldier in the *Virginia* Regiment, was presented to the House and read; setting forth, that, whilst he was employed in erecting a Fortress, his Arm was broke and his Shoulder dislocated, whereby he is disabled to provide for his Subsistence, and that he is now far advanced in Years, and indigent; and therefore praying Relief.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

A *Petition* of *John Durett* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that a negro Man Slave, named *Jacob*, belonging to the Petitioner, having been guilty of Felony, and being committed to the Gaol of the County of *Spotsylvania*, to be tried, for the same, in order to make his escape, set fire to the said Gaol, and perished in the Flames; and therefore praying the House to take the Case under Consideration, and allow the Petitioner the value of the said Slave.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House. ¹⁵⁶

Ordered, that it be an Instruction to the Committee of Public Claims, that they make an allowance, in the Book of Claims, to *M^r George Slaughter* of the value of a Hogshead of Tobacco, inspected for him at *Falmouth* Warehouse, and carried away by the fresh, in *May 1771*.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill for taking the privy examination of Femes Covert, residing in distant Countries, and that *M^r Treasurer*, *M^r Richard Henry Lee*, and *M^r Richard Lee* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A *Petition* of *George Archer* and *Francis Eppes* Inspectors of Tobacco at *Bollings Point* Warehouses, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that when Inspections at *Cedar Point* and at *Davil's* in *Blandford* were established, the Salaries of the Petitioners, which before that time had been Seventy Pounds, were reduced to sixty Pounds per Annum, it being expected that the latter Warehouses would take a considerable part of the Tobacco which would otherwise be brought to the others, but that the quantity of Tobacco received by the Petitioners since hath not been less, than it had been; and therefore praying that they be allowed their former Salaries.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A *Petition*² of *Thomas Minor* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth that he was summoned as a Juryman, by a Writ of *Venire facias*, on the Trial of *John King*, a Criminal sent from the County of *Spotsylvania*, and attended the General Court for that purpose; but that, from some mistake his attendance was not entered with that of his fellows, so that nothing was levied for him; and therefore praying that he may be allowed for such his Attendance and travelling. ¹⁵⁷

Ordered,

¹ *Miscellaneous Papers*, May 5-26, 1774.

² *Ibid.*

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

M^r *Treasurer* presented to the House according to Order a Bill for taking the privy examination of Femes Covert residing in distant Countries; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that the Chaplain do attend to read Prayers, in the House, every Morning at nine of the Clock.

Ordered, that M^r *Edmund Pendleton* do go to the Council, and acquaint them that the Chaplain will attend to read Prayers, in the House, every Morning at nine of the Clock.

M^r *Bowdoin* reported from the Committee to whom the Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *Thomas Fisher* is seifed, and for settling other Lands and Slaves of greater value, to the same Uses, was committed, that the Committee had examined 158 the Allegations of the Bill, and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made an Amendment thereunto, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendment, in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendment was twice read, and upon the Question put thereupon, was agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Bill, with the Amendment, be engrossed.

A *Petition* of *Timothy Conway*, a Soldier was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that at the battle of the *Meadows* the Petitioner received a Wound in the Wrist of his right Arm, which endangered his life; that afterwards being somewhat recovered he inlisted into a ranging Company and when that was disbanded served in the *Virginia* Regiment, until he was discharged, his Wound being thought incurable; and that being old and unable to labour, he is now in the utmost distrefs; and therefore praying the Assitance of this Honourable House.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof and report the same with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Ordered, that M^r *Holt* have leave to be absent from the Service of this House till Monday next.

The *Order* of the Day being read.

The House resolved itself into a *Committee* of the whole House, upon the Bill for further continuing An Act, intituled *An Act¹ for reducing the several Acts of Assembly for making Provision against Invasions and Insurrections into one Act*.

159 M^r *Speaker* left the Chair.

M^r *Bland* took the Chair of the Committee.

M^r *Speaker* resumed the Chair.

M^r *Bland* reported from the Committee, that they had made a Progress in the Bill, and that he was directed by the Committee to move that they may have leave to sit again.

Resolved, that this House will Tomorrow Resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider further of the said Bill.

And, then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, eleven of the Clock.

Wednesday.

¹ *Hening's, VIII, p. 514.*

Wednesday, the 18th of May, 14 Geo. III. 1774.

ORDERED, that Mr *Charles Carter*, of *Lancaster*, be added to the Committees for Religion, Privileges and Elections, and Propositions and Grievances.

Ordered, that Mr *Claiborne* be added to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to examine the Treasurers Accounts; and that they do state in Account as well the Balance due from the late *Treasurer* to the Public, as the several funds by Law appropriated for the Redemption of the Treasury Notes, together with the amount of such Notes remaining in Circulation; and that they do also state an Account of the Balances now due from the several Sheriffs for Taxes; and report the same to the House.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Bland*, Mr *Richard Henry Lee*, Mr *Harrison*, Mr *Charles Carter*, of *Lancaster*, Mr *Digges*, Mr *Fitzhugh*, Mr *Newton*, Mr *Weft*, and Mr *Cary*.

The Order of the Day being read;

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill for further continuing An Act,¹ intituled *An Act for reducing the several Acts of Assembly, for making Provision against Invasions and Insurrections into one Act*.

Mr *Speaker* left the Chair.

Mr *Bland* took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr *Speaker* resumed the Chair.

Mr *Bland* reported from the Committee, that they had gone through the Bill, and made an Amendment thereunto, which they had directed him to report, when the House will please to receive the same.

Ordered, that the Report be now received.

Mr *Bland* accordingly reported from the said Committee the Amendment which the Committee had made to the Bill, and which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered the Bill with the Amendment, in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendment was twice read, and upon the Question put thereupon, was, with several Amendments thereunto, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Bill, with the Amendment be engrossed.

A Petition of *Wilson Miles Cary* was presented to the House, and read, setting forth, that the Petitioner is seised in fee tail of three thousand eight hundred and forty five Acres of Land, in the County of *Gloucester*, which for some Years past yielded him little profit; and that it would be of considerable Advantage to him and his Heir and family if he were allowed to sell the same, and settle Lands of greater value in lieu thereof; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for the purposes aforesaid.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring a Bill pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr *Bland* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A Petition² of *Martin Fipher* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that, in the Year 1764, the Petitioner, at the instance of *Abram Smith* supplied Provisions to the value of £8.5.7½ for a number of Indians, then passing through the Country, and that the Petitioner, soon after removing to the Province of *South Carolina*, where he has ever since resided, left his Account in the hands of the said *Abram Smith*, with directions to receive the Money; but that the said *Abram Smith* neglected to do anything in the matter, and the Petitioner hath never received any satisfaction; and therefore praying that he may now be allowed the value of the said Provisions.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims, and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

Mr

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 514.

² Miscellaneous Papers, May 5-26, 1774.

M^r *Treasurer* reported from the Committee for Religion, to whom several Petitions were referred, that the Committee had examined the matters of the said Petitions, and had come to several Resolutions thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

162 *Resolved*, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petitions of the Reverend *David Griffith*, Rector of *Shelburne* Parish, in the County of *Loudoun*, praying that the Act of General Assembly, allowing the Inhabitants of the County of *Loudoun*, to discharge their public dues in Money in lieu of Tobacco at twelve shillings and sixpence per Hundred, as to so much as relates to the Salary of the Minister of *Shelburne*, be repealed, is reasonable.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of sundry Members of the Vestry of the said Parish, in opposition thereto, be rejected.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of sundry Inhabitants of the Parish of *Russell*, in the County of *Bedford*, praying a Division of the said Parish, be rejected.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petitions of sundry other Inhabitants of the said Parish in opposition thereto, is reasonable.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of sundry Inhabitants of that part of the Parish of *Botetourt*, which lies in the County of *Fincastle*, praying that the said Parish may be divided, that the County of *Fincastle* may be one distinct Parish, and that the Money levied on the Inhabitants of *Fincastle* for purchasing a Glebe, and building Churches in the County of *Botetourt*, may be repaid to them, is reasonable.

The said *Resolutions* being severally read a second time were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

163 *Ordered*, that a Bill or Bills be brought in pursuant to the *first* and *fifth* Resolutions; and that the said Committee do prepare, and bring in the same.

A *Petition* of sundry Inhabitants of the County of *Charlotte*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Act of General Assembly, made in the twelfth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled *An Act¹ to amend an Act intituled An Act for the better preservation of the breed of Deer, and preventing unlawful hunting* had not answered the end thereby proposed, and therefore praying, that the said Act may be repealed.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A *Petition* of several Persons of the Counties of *Mecklenburg*, *Halifax*, and *Charlotte* praying that so much of the said Counties as lies within the following bounds, *to wit*, A line beginning at the intersection of *Island Creek* and the County Line, and running from thence down the said Creek to *Roane Oak River*, from thence a North Course to the *South Meherrin* from thence up *Meherrin* to the line dividing *Mecklenburg* and *Charlotte*, from thence a direct Course to *Stewart's* ferry, from thence a South Course to the County line, and from thence to the beginning, may be one distinct County; *And Also*

A *Petition* of sundry Inhabitants and Landholders, of the County of *Charlotte*, in opposition thereto,

164 Were severally *presented* to the House, and read.

Ordered, that the said Petitions be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A *Petition* of the Inhabitants of the County of *Halifax*, on the South side of *Banister River*, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; praying that the said County may be divided into two Counties by the said River.

Ordered,

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 501.

Ordered, that the Consideration of the said Petition be deferred till the next Session of General Assembly.

A Petition of *Simon Miller* and *Robert Reynolds* Inspectors of Tobacco at *Laytons* Warehouse, in the County of *Essex*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the said Warehouses, although secured by good Locks, were broken open, in the Year 1771 and 1772, and two Hogsheads of Tobacco stolen thereout, the value whereof the Petitioners have been obliged to pay to the Owners; and therefore praying that they may be reimbursed.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their opinion thereupon, to the House.

Ordered, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill to amend an Act, intituled *An Act to regulate the inoculation of the Small Pox within this Colony*; and that the Committee of Propositions and Grievances do prepare and bring in the same.

A Petition of the Vestry of the Parish of *Frederick*, in the County of *Frederick*, ¹⁶⁵ praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill to enable the Petitioners and their Successors to levy annually, on the Tithable Persons in their Parish, the sum of one hundred and fifty Pounds of Current Money of *Virginia*, to be paid to the Minister of the Parish, for the time being as his Salary, in lieu to the Tobacco and Cash and the legal allowance for shrinkage, to which he is now intitled.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr *Wood*, Mr *Edmund Pendleton*, and Mr *Zane* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A Petition of *Lewis Burwell*, Esquire, and Sir *Peyton Skipwith*, Baronet, was presented to the House, and read; praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for adding certain Islands in *Roane Oak* River, belonging to the Petitioners, to the County of *Mecklenburg*.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A Petition of *Alexander Gallaspy* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth that, in the Year 1761, he was employed as an Armourer to the *Virginia* Regiment; and that his Tools, which were appraised to twenty five Pounds, and which by order of an Officer were put into a Waggon to be carried home from *Holstons* River, were thrown out, and left on the way, the Waggon being over loaded, so that the Petitioner never recovered them; and therefore praying that he may be allowed the value of them.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill to encourage the making of Linseed Oyl; and that Mr *Dandridge* and Mr *Baffett* do prepare, and bring in the same.

Mr *Edmund Pendleton* reported from the Committee of Propositions and Grievances to whom several Petitions were referred, that the Committee had examined the matters of the said Petitions, and had come to several Resolutions thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *William Brown* and *John Sturdivant*, Inspectors at *Blandford* Warehouse, praying an Allowance for their past Service, over and above their Salaries is reasonable; and that they ought to be allowed the sum of twenty Pounds each.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *Nathaniel Rains* and *John Watts*, junior Inspectors at *Boyd's* Warehouse, praying an allowance for their

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 371.

their past Service, over and above their Salaries, is reasonable; and that they ought to be allowed the sum of twenty Pounds each.

167 *Resolved*, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *Boswell Goodwin* and *James Goodwin*, Inspectors at *Bollingbroke* Warehouse, praying an allowance for their past Service, over and above their Salaries is reasonable; and that they ought to be allowed the sum of twenty Pounds each.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee that so much of the Petition of divers Inhabitants of the County of *Halifax*, as prays an Augmentation of the Reward for apprehending Horse Stealers, is reasonable.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that so much of the said Petition as prays an alteration of the Law concerning Vagrants, is reasonable.

The said *Resolutions* being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that it be an Instruction to the Committee of Public Claims, that they make allowances in the book of Claims, pursuant to the three first of the said *Resolutions*.

Ordered, that a Bill or Bills be brought in pursuant to the *fourth* and *fifth* of the said *Resolutions*; and that the Committee of Propositions and Grievances do prepare and bring in the same.

168 *M^r Edmund Pendleton* reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill for altering and establishing the boundaries of the Counties of *Stafford* and *King George*, was committed, that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made several Amendments thereunto, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendments, in at the Clerk's Table, where the Amendments were once read throughout, and then a second time, one by one, and upon the Question severally put thereupon, were agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Bill with the Amendments be engrossed.

A *Petition* of *John Baylor*, *George Baylor*, and *Robert Baylor*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth that *John Baylor*, Esquire, deceased, their father, had devised certain Lands to the Petitioners in fee tail, and bequeathed Slaves and Personal Estate to them, charged with the payment of Debts and Legacies, amounting to more than ten thousand Pounds, which will exhaust the greatest part of the Slaves and Stocks; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill, to sell part of the intailed lands for payment of the Debts and Legacies, which will be more for the advantage of the Petitioners and their Families.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that *M^r Edmund Pendleton* and *M^r James Taylor* do prepare and bring in the same.

169 *A Petition* of *John Armistead* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that by virtue of an *Act* of General Assembly, made in the tenth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty part of a Track of Land, whereof the Petitioner was seised in fee tail, had been sold for payment of his proportion of the Debts due from the Estate of his father, *William Armistead*, Esquire, deceased, but was not sufficient for that purpose; and that the Petitioner hath no means of discharging what he is bound and hath engaged to pay on that Account, without selling his Slaves, to the ruin of his Family, unless a further part of the said intailed Lands be sold, and the Money applied to make up the deficiency; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill, to empower Trustees to sell twelve hundred Acres more of the said intailed Lands, for payment of the remainder of the said Debts.

Ordered, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that *M^r Edmund Pendleton*, and *M^r James Taylor* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A Petition of *John Waller* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth that the Warehouse called *Waller's* was built on an Acre of Land in the County of *King William*, the valuation of which had been paid to the Petitioner's father, who was seised thereof, and that afterwards the Inspection at that place was discontinued, whereby the

the said Acre reverted to the Petitioner, who is heir at Law to his said Father; but that the said Inspection having been since revived, he is deprived thereof; and praying the Consideration of the House in the Premises.

A Motion was made, and the Question being put, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of a Committee.

It passed in the Negative.

Resolved, that the Petition be rejected.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, eleven of the Clock.

Thursday, the 19th of May, 14 Geo. III. 1774.

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MR *Bland* presented to the House, according to Order a Bill to vest certain intailed Lands therein mentioned in *Wilson Miles Cary*, Esquire, in fee Simple, and to settle other Lands in lieu thereof; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to Mr *Bland*, and the Members who serve for the Counties of *Gloucester*, *York*, and *Elizabeth City*.

A Petition of *Robert Kennon* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the ferry from *Kennons* to *Mays* on *Appamattox* River, hath not been used for many Years past; and therefore praying, that the said ferry may be discontinued.

Ordered, that it be an instruction to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, who are appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill pursuant to the fourth Resolution of the said Committee, which was reported to the House upon *Tuesday*, the tenth day of this Instant, and which was agreed to by the House, that they have Power to receive a Clause or Clauses for discontinuing the Public ferries from *Kennons* to *Mays*, and from *Mays* to *Kennons*, and from the *Store Landing*, in the County of *Chesterfield*, over *Perfie's Stile Creek*, to the land of *Peter Baugh*.

A Petition of sundry Persons, of the County of *Halifax*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; praying that a public ferry may be established over *Dan River*, from the land of *John Boyd*, to the land of *Patrick Boyd*.

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Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

A Petition¹ of *Moses Swinny*, of the County of *Amherst*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that, on the twenty second day of *May*, 1771, a *Hogshead* of Tobacco, belonging to the Petitioner, was lodged either in *Shockoe* or *Byrds Warehouses*, by the Person employed to carry it thither in a *Waggon*; and that it was carried away by the fresh, before it was inspected; and that the Petitioner hath received no Satisfaction for it; and praying an allowance for the same.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

Mr *Edmund Pendleton* reported from the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, to whom several Petitions were referred, that the Committee had examined the matters of the said Petitions, and had come to several Resolutions thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that so much of the Petition of *George Archer* and *Francis Eppes*, Inspectors at *Bollings Point*, as prays an allowance for

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their

¹ Miscellaneous Papers, May 5-26, 1774.

their past Service, over and above their Salaries, is reasonable; and that they ought to be allowed the sum of twenty Pounds each.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that so much of the said Petition as prays a revival of their former Salaries be rejected.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *John Boyd*, of the County of *Berkeley*, praying that a public ferry may be established over *Potowmack* River, from his land, to the land of *James Johnson* and Company, in the County of *Frederick*, and Province of *Maryland*, is reasonable.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petitions of divers Inhabitants of the Counties of *Amherst* and *Charlotte*, praying that the Act of Assembly, passed in the twelfth Year of his present Majesty's Reign intituled *An Act¹ to amend an Act, intituled An Act for the better preservation of the breed of Deer; and preventing unlawful hunting* may be repealed, is reasonable.

The three first *Resolutions* of the Committee being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

The subsequent *Resolution* of the Committee being read a second time.

And the *Question* being put, that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said *Resolutions*;

It passed in the Negative.

Resolved, that the Petition of divers Inhabitants of the Counties of *Amherst* and *Charlotte*, praying that the Act of Assembly, passed in the twelfth year of his present Majesty's Reign, intituled *An Act to amend an Act, intituled An Act for the better preservation of the breed of Deer and preventing unlawful hunting* may be repealed, be rejected.

Ordered, that it be an Instruction to the Committee of Public Claims that they make an allowance in the Book of Claims, pursuant to the first of the said *Resolutions*, which hath been agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that it be an instruction to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, who are appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill pursuant to the fourth *Resolution* of the said Committee, which was reported to the House, upon *Tuesday* the tenth day of this Instant, and which was agreed to by the House, that they have Power to receive a Clause or Clauses pursuant to the third *Resolution* of the said Committee, which was this day reported and agreed to by the House.

A *Petition* of several Persons of the County of *Culpeper*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; praying that a public ferry may be established over the River *Rapidan*, at a place called *Eley's* ford from the land of *Bowles Armistead*, Gentleman, in the County of *Culpeper*, to the land of *Alexander Spotswood*, Gentlemen, in the County of *Spotsylvania*.

Ordered, that the said *Petition* be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

174 A Memorial of *Andrew Estave* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the late frost hath destroyed all the Grapes in the public Vineyard, which was in a very flourishing State before; and that the Petitioner hath not Wood sufficient to inclose the Vineyard, and is unable to purchase it, and praying that the House will not only advance him a sum of Money for providing a Vault, a press, and Still which are necessary Articles in making Wine, but will allow him a further sum of fifty Pounds, which he hopes he shall be enabled to repay out of the Profits of the Vineyard.

Ordered, that the said *Memorial* be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A *Petition* of *John Hobday*, of the County of *Gloucester*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth that the Petitioner had invented a Machine for getting Wheat out of the Ear clean and neat and with more expedition and less labour than can be done by threshing or treading with Cattle, and that without loss of the Chaff, or detriment

to

¹ *Hening's*, VIII, p. 591.

to the Straw; and submitting it to the liberality, and Wisdom of the House to reward his Endeavors to serve the Community in such manner as they may think proper.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Trade; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A Petition of several Persons, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read, praying that a Public ferry may be established over *Shanandoah* ¹⁷⁵ River in the County of *Frederick* from the Land of *Thomas Bryan Martin*, Esquire, where *John Nicholas* lately lived, to the land of the Right honourable *Thomas Lord Fairfax*.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Ordered, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill to repeal the Act of General Assembly, made in the twelfth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled *An Act to amend an Act, intituled An Act for the better preservation of the breed of Deer, and preventing unlawful hunting*, so far as the same relates to certain Counties; and that Mr *Carrington*, Mr *Speed*, and Mr *Joseph Cabell* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A Petition of several Persons, of the County of *Culpeper* whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; praying that the owners of Mills upon *Hughe's River* may be obliged to make openings or Slopes in their Dams, for the passage of Fish.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A Petition of several Persons, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; praying that the Owners of Mills on the *Rapidanne* and *Robinson* Rivers may be obliged to make Slopes or Gates in their Dams sufficient for the passage of Fish.

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Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Ordered, that Mr *Zane*, Mr *Hite*, and Mr *Slaughter* be added to the Committee for Religion.

Ordered, that Mr *Zane*, Mr *Hite*, Mr *Coles*, Mr *Terry*, and Mr *Henry Pendleton* be added to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

An ingrossed Bill for further continuing an Act intituled *An Act for reducing the several Acts of Assembly for making Provision against Invasions and Insurrections into one Act* was read the third Time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; ¹ and that the Title be *An Act for reducing the several Acts of Assembly, for making Provision against Invasions and Insurrections, into one Act*.

Ordered, that Mr *Bland* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Mr *Bland* reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *Thomas Jefferson* and *Martha* his Wife, in right of the said *Martha*, are seised in fee tail, for vesting the same in *Henry Skipwith*, Gentleman, and for settling other Lands of equal value, to the same Uses, was committed, that the Committee had examined the Allegations of the Bill, and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had directed him to report the Bill to the House, without any Amendment; and he delivered the Bill in at the Clerk's Table.

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Ordered, that the Bill be ingrossed.

Ordered, that Mr *Stith* have leave to be absent from the Service of this House till the tenth Day of *June* next.

An ingrossed Bill for altering and establishing the boundaries of the Counties of *Stafford* and *King George* was read the third time.

Resolved,

¹ *Hening's*, VIII, p. 514.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be *An Act¹ for altering and establishing the boundaries of the Counties of Stafford and King George.*

Ordered, that Mr Jones do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Mr Cary reported from the Committee of public Claims, to whom the Petition of *Timothy Conway*, late a Soldier in the *Virginia* Regiment, was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petition, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House, and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolution of the Committee was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the said Petition is reasonable; and that the Petitioner ought to be allowed the sum of twenty pounds, for his present Relief, and the further sum of five Pounds per Annum during Life, as a recompence for the Wounds he received in the service of the Country.

The said *Resolution* being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

¹⁷⁸ *Resolved*, that the sum of twenty Pounds be paid to *Timothy Conway*, late a Soldier in the *Virginia* Regiment, and that the sum of five Pounds per Annum be paid to the said *Timothy Conway*, during his life, as a recompence for the Wounds he received in the Service of the Country.

Ordered, that Mr Cary do carry the Resolution to the Council and desire their Concurrence.

Mr Edmund Pendleton presented to the House according to order, a Bill to increase the Reward for apprehending Horse Stealers, and for other purposes therein mentioned and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr Cary reported from the Committee of Public Claims, to whom the Petition of *James Keeling*, late a Soldier in the *Virginia* Regiment, was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petition, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolution of the Committee was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the said Petition is reasonable; and that the Petitioner ought to be allowed the sum of twenty Pounds for his present relief, and the further sum of five Pounds per Annum, during Life, as a recompence for the Wounds he received in the Service of the Country.

The said *Resolution* being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

¹⁷⁹ *Resolved*, that the sum of twenty Pounds be paid to *James Keeling*, late a Soldier in the *Virginia* Regiment, and that the sum of five Pounds per Annum, be paid to the said *James Keeling*, during his Life, as a Recompence for the Wounds he received in the Service of the Country.

Ordered, that Mr Cary do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

An ingrossed Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *Thomas Fisher* is seised, and for settling other Lands and Slaves, of greater value, to the same Uses, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass and that the Title be *An Act¹ to dock the intail of certain lands whereof Thomas Fisher is seised, and for settling other Lands and Slaves of greater value, to the same Uses.*

Ordered, that Mr Bowdoin do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Mr Cary reported from the Committee of Public Claims, to whom the Petition of *John Durett* was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petition, and had directed him to report the same, together with the Resolution of the Committee

¹ Hening's IX, p. 244.

Committee thereupon, to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table, where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

It appears to your Committee that the Slave *Jacob*, in the said Petition mentioned, was committed to the Gaol of *Spotsylvania* County, but before his tryal he set fire to the Gaol, and perished in the flames.

Whereupon your Committee came to the following Resolution:

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the said Petitioner ought ¹⁸⁰ to be allowed the sum of Seventy five Pounds for the said Slave.

The said Resolution being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that it be an instruction to the Committee of public Claims, that they make an allowance in the book of Claims purfuant to the said Resolution.

A Bill for taking the privy examination of Femes Covert, residing in distant Countries was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Resolved, that this House will, Tomorrow, Resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House upon the said Bill.

M^r *Hutchings* reported from the Committee, to whom the Petition of the Inhabitants of the Borough of *Norfolk*; praying that they may be exempt from all kinds of Service upon any highway or Road, without the limits of the Borough, and that the expence of laying out clearing and repairing the Streets Caufeways and Alleys therein may be defrayed by a Tax, to be assed upon the said Inhabitants, was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petition, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolution of the Committee was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the said Petition is reasonable. ¹⁸¹

The said Resolution being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that it be an Instruction to the Gentlemen who are appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill, purfuant to the Prayer of the Petition of the Inhabitants of the Borough of *Norfolk*, which, upon *Thursday* last, was prefented to the House, that they have Power to receive a Clause or Clauses purfuant to the Prayer of the Petition mentioned in the said Report.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning eleven of the Clock.

Friday, the 20th of May, 14 Geo. III. 1774.

A Petition¹ of *Philip Barber* was prefented to the House, and read; setting forth that, in the Year 1764, he was employed by General *Bouquet*, then in the *Indian* Country, to go expres from him to Governor *Fauquier*, at *Williamsburg*, and that in performing the Journey he lost his Horse, for which he had never received any satisfaction, having been most of the time since out of the Country; and therefore praying, that he may now be allowed the value of the said Horse.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

M^r *Bland* reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill to vest certain intailed Lands therein mentioned in *Wilson Miles Cary*, Esquire, in fee simple, and to settle ¹⁸² other

¹ Miscellaneous Papers, May 5-26, 1774.

other Lands in lieu thereof, was committed, that the Committee had examined the Allegations of the Bill, and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had directed him to report the Bill to the House, without any Amendment; and he delivered the Bill in at the Clerk's Table.

Ordered, that the Bill be ingrossed.

A *Petition*¹ of *John Knibb*, Inspector of Tobacco at *Bermuda Hundred*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that, in the Year 1770 and 1771, without any default in the Petitioner, the said Warehouses were broken open, and eight hundred and thirty six Pounds of Tobacco were stolen thereout, for which the Petitioner had been obliged to pay to the Owners £7.17.0, and praying that the same may be repaid to him by the Public.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

A *Petition*² of *Walter Scott* was presented to the House and read; setting forth, that in 1763, and in the two following Years five Hogsheads of Tobacco were stolen out of the Warehouses at the *Rocky Ridge*, without any default in the Inspectors, who were the Petitioner and *James Martin*, deceased, for which the said Inspectors paid to the Owners £50.13.7; and praying that the same may be repaid to the Petitioner and the Representative of the said *James Martin*.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

M^r Wood presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to empower the Vestry of the Parish of *Frederick*, in the County of *Frederick*, to levy their Ministers Salary in Money, in lieu of Tobacco; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

A *Petition*³ of *Thomas Tunstall* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the levy for the County of *Halifax*, for the year 1771, was not laid till the fourteenth day of *March*, in the succeeding Year, near five Weeks after the Session of Assembly in that Year began; and that immediately afterwards the Petitioner, who was a Deputy of the Clerk of the Court of that County, made out the said County's Amount against the Public, and delivered the same to *Nathaniel Terry*, Esquire, one of the Representatives of the said County; but that soon after the said Account was so made out and delivered, an express came to the Petitioner's House for a Copy thereof, the expence of which Express were levied on the Principal Clerk, who must be indemnified by the Petitioner; and therefore praying, that the said Expences may be reimbursed by the Public.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

¹⁸⁴ *M^r Edmund Pendleton* reported from the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, to whom several Petitions were referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petitions, and had come to several Resolutions thereupon, which they had directed him to Report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of sundry Inhabitants of the Counties of *Mecklenburg*, *Halifax*, and *Charlotte*, praying that a new County may be formed out of part of those three Counties, be rejected.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of sundry Inhabitants of the Counties of *Charlotte* and *Halifax*, in opposition thereto, is reasonable.

Resolved,

¹ Miscellaneous Papers, May 5-26, 1774.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of sundry Inhabitants of the Counties of *Charlotte* and *Lunenburg*, praying that part of the County of *Charlotte* may be added to the County of *Lunenburg*, is reasonable.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *Lewis Burwell*, Esquire, and Sir *Peyton Skipwith*, Baronet, praying that certain Islands belonging to them, in *Roane Oak River*, in the County of *Halifax*, may be added to the County of *Mecklenburg*, is reasonable.

The said *Resolutions* being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that a Bill be brought in pursuant to the two last resolutions; and that the Committee of *Propositions* and Grievances do prepare, and bring in the same.

The House, according to *order*, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill for taking the privy examination of Femes Covert, residing in distant Countries.

M^r *Speaker* left the Chair,

M^r *Bland* took the Chair of the Committee.

M^r *Speaker* resumed the Chair.

M^r *Bland* reported from the Committee, that they had made a progress in the Bill; and that he was directed by the Committee to move, that they may have leave to sit again.

Resolved, that this House will, Tomorrow resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider further of the said Bill.

An ingrossed Bill, to dock the intail of certain Lands, whereof *Thomas Jefferson* and *Martha* his Wife, in right of the said *Martha*, are seised in fee tail, for vesting the same in *Henry Skipwith*, Gentleman, and for settling other lands, of equal value to the same Uses, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass, and that the Title be *An Act to dock the intail of certain Lands, whereof Thomas Jefferson and Martha his Wife, in right of the said Martha, are seised in fee tail, for vesting the same in Henry Skipwith, Gentleman, and for settling other Lands, of equal value to the same Uses.*

Ordered, that M^r *Bland* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Ordered, that M^r *Treasurer* do provide a decent suit of Clothes for the Doorkeepers attending the House.

A Bill to increase the reward for apprehending Horse Stealers, and for other Purposes therein mentioned, was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Resolved, that this House will, upon Monday next, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the said Bill.

A Petition¹ of *Moses Hunter*, of the County of *Berkeley*, was presented to the House, and Read; setting forth, that the Petitioner, having entered into a Recognizance before the Court of the said County, to appear at the General Court, as a Witness for the King against *James Conner*, a Criminal, was travelling to *Williamsburg* accordingly, but his Horse failed in the Journey, so that the Petitioner could not reach the Capitol, until about two Hours after the Criminal was tried and Convicted; and praying to be allowed for his travelling and attendance.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

M^r *Edmund Pendleton* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *John Armistead*, Gentleman, is seised, and for other purposes therein mentioned; and the same was received and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

M^r *Harrison* reported from the Committee of Trade, to whom the Petition of *John Hobday*, praying to be allowed a reward for inventing a Machine, whereby Wheat

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¹ Miscellaneous Papers, May 5-26, 1774.

is got out neat and clean, and with more ease and expedition than by threshing or treading, and without loss of the Chaff and detriment to the Straw, was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petition, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolution of the Committee was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the said Petition is reasonable; and that the said *John Hobday* ought to be allowed by the Public the sum of three hundred Pounds, as a reward for inventing the said Machine, and communicating to the Public the manner of erecting it.

The said *Resolution* being read a second time;

The *amendment* following was proposed to be made thereunto, *viz.*

To leave out "three," and insert "one," instead thereof.

And the *Question* being put, that the word "three" stand part of the said Resolution; It passed in the Negative.

And the *Question* being put that the Word "one" be inserted instead thereof; It was resolved in the Affirmative.

Resolved, that the House do agree with the Committee in the said Resolution so amended, that the said Petition is reasonable; and that the said *John Hobday* ought to be allowed by the Public the sum of one hundred Pounds, as a reward for inventing the said Machine, and communicating to the Public the manner of erecting it.

Resolved, that the sum of one hundred Pounds be paid to *John Hobday* for inventing the Machine for beating out Wheat.

Ordered, that M^r *Harrison* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

The other *Order* of the Day being read;

Ordered, that the Letters received by M^r *Speaker*, from the *Speakers* of several of the lower Houses of Assembly of the British Colonies, in *America*, with other Papers, upon the subject matters, which were referred to the standing Committee of Correspondence and Inquiry, be laid before this House, upon *Thursday* next.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, eleven of the Clock.

Saturday, the 21st of May, 14 Geo. III. 1774.

THE Order of the Day being read, for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider further of the Bill for taking the privy examination of Feme Coverts, residing in distant Countries.

Resolved, that this House will, upon *Monday* next, resolve itself into the said Committee.

A *Petition* of *William Digges*, the younger, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner is feised in fee tail, under the Will of his Grandfather, *Cole Digges*, Esquire, deceased, of a Tract of land, lying in the Parish of Drysdale, in the County of *Caroline*, containing two thousand six hundred and forty four Acres, which, being remote from the Petitioner's Residence, is unprofitable to him, especially as he hath not a sufficient number of Slaves to cultivate the same and his other Lands; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill, to dock the intail of the said Land in *Caroline*, and to settle other Lands and Slaves, in lieu thereof.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that M^r *Nelson* do prepare and bring in the same.

M^r *Edmund Pendleton* reported from the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, to whom several Petitions were referred, that the Committee had examined the matters of the said Petitions, and had come to several Resolutions thereupon, which they had directed

directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, ¹⁸⁸ and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of sundry Inhabitants of the County of *Culpeper*, praying that a public Ferry may be established from the land of *Bowles Armistead*, Gentleman, in the County of *Culpeper*, over the River *Rapidanne*, to the land of *Alexander Spotswood*, Gentleman, in the County of *Spotsylvania*, is reasonable.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of sundry Inhabitants of the County of *Halifax*, praying that a Public Ferry may be established from the Land of *John Boyd*, over *Dan River*, to the land of *Patrick Boyd* on the opposite Shore, in the County of *Halifax*, is reasonable.

The said *Resolutions* being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that it be an Instruction to the said Committee, who are appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill purfuant to the fourth Resolution of the said Committee, which was reported to the House upon *Tuesday*, the tenth day of this Instant, and which was agreed to by the House, that they have Power to receive a Clause or Clauses purfuant to the said Resolutions, this day reported, and agreed to by the House.

An ingrossed *Bill* to vest certain intailed Lands therein mentioned in *Wilson Miles Cary*, Esquire, in fee simple, and to settle other Lands, in lieu thereof, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act to vest certain intailed Lands therein mentioned in Wilson Miles Cary, Esquire, in fee simple, and to settle other lands, in lieu thereof.*

Ordered, that Mr *Bland* do carry the Bill to the Council and desire their Concurrence. ¹⁸⁹

Mr *Treasurer* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill for dissolving the Vestry of the Parish of *Saint Anne*, in the County of *Albemarle*; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr *Treasurer* reported from the Committee for Religion, to whom the Petition of sundry Inhabitants of that part of the Parish of *Beckford*, which was lately taken from the Parish of *Frederick*, praying that the Vestry of the said Parish may be dissolved, was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petition, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolution of the Committee was read and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee that the said Petition is reasonable.

The said *Resolution* being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that a Bill be brought in purfuant to the said Resolution; and that the Committee for Religion do prepare and bring in the same.

Mr *Treasurer* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill for dividing the Parish of *Botetourt*, in the Counties of *Botetourt* and *Fincastle*, and for other purposes therein mentioned; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr *Treasurer* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to allow the Minister of *Shelburne* Parish in the County of *Loudoun*, the same Salary as other Ministers are intitled to receive; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

A *Petition* of *Edward Harwood* and *Elizabeth* his Wife was presented to the House, and read; setting forth that the Petitioners, in right of the Wife, are seised in fee tail of four hundred Acres of Land, in the Parish of *Yorkhampton* in the County of *York* under the last Will and Testament of *George Read*, deceased, and that it will be advantageous to the Petitioners and their issue to sell the said Land, and lay out the purchase Money

Money in Slaves, to be annexed to other intailed Lands, which the Petitioners are feised of under the same Will; and therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for the purposes aforesaid.

Ordered, that a Bill be brought in pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr. Digges and Mr. Nelson do prepare and bring in the same.

A Petition of *Cuthbert Bullitt* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that he is feised in fee simple of a tract of Land at the Mouth of *Quantico Creek*, which is a very convenient place for a Town; and therefore praying, that sixteen Acres of the said Land may for that purpose be laid off into Lots, exclusive of a proper number of Streets, and that the purchasers of the Lots may not be obliged to erect thereon, within any determinate time, other Houses than such as they shall think necessary for carrying on their Trade.

¹⁹¹ *Ordered*, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A Petition of the Trustees and other Inhabitants of the Town of *Alexandria*, in the County of *Fairfax*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that, since the passing of the Act of General Assembly, made in the fourth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled *An Act¹ for encouraging the settlement of the Towns of Alexandria and Falmouth, and for other purposes therein mentioned*, by which it was enacted, among other things, that the purchasers of Lots in the said Town should not be subject or liable to any forfeiture for neglecting or failing to build thereon, the Trade of the said Town hath very considerably increased, and many Merchants and Tradesmen are very desirous of settling and residing there, but cannot be accommodated with Houses, which the Proprietors of the vacant Lots neglect to build, not being obliged to do so; And that the Act of General Assembly, made in the twelfth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled *An Act² to encourage the further settlement of the Town of Alexandria, in the County of Fairfax*, hath not produced the good Effects intended thereby, the forfeiture of certain Marsh lots belonging to Infants, or Persons out of the Country, being prevented by the Proviso in the said Act contained; and therefore praying that the other Lands adjoining the said Town may be added to the same, and made part thereof, that the owners of Lots Unimproved may be compelled to build upon them within a reasonable time, and that effectual Measures may be pursued for draining and improving the said Marsh lots.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

Several Petitions of the Inhabitants of the Counties of *Frederick*, *Berkeley* and *Dunmore*, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, were presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the ordinary Methods prescribed for keeping the public Roads in Repair are insufficient; and therefore praying the House to take the matter into Consideration, and provide such remedy as shall seem proper.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

A Petition of several Farmers and other Inhabitants of the County of *Berkeley*, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, And also,

A Petition of several Farmers and other Inhabitants of the County of *Loudoun*, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, And also,

A Petition of several Farmers and other Inhabitants of the County of *Fairfax*, whose Names are thereunto subscribed,

Were severally presented to the House and read; setting forth, that the Inhabitants of *Maryland* are allowed, by the Laws of that Province, to import Rum, in their own Vessels, without being obliged to pay any duty for the same, whereby they have considerable

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 49. ² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 613.

fiderable advantages, in the *West India Trade*, over the Inhabitants of this Colony; ¹⁹³ and therefore praying, that the Act imposing a duty of four pence per Gallon on Rum imported may be repealed, and that some other mode for raising a Revenue equal to what that duty produces may be substituted in place thereof.

Ordered, that the said Petitions be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Trade; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

A Bill to empower the Vestry of the Parish of *Frederick*, in the County of *Frederick*, to levy their Minister's Salary, in Money, in lieu of Tobacco, was read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be ingrossed.

Mr *Bassett* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to encourage the making of Linseed Oyl; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

And then the House adjourned till Monday Morning next eleven of the Clock.

Monday, the 23rd of May, 14 Geo. III. 1774.

THE Order of the Day being read, for the House to Resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill, to increase the reward for apprehending Horse Stealers, and for other purposes therein mentioned:

Resolved, that this House will, Tomorrow Resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider of the said Bill.

The other Order of the Day being read;

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider further ¹⁹⁴ of the Bill, for taking the privy examination of Femes Covert, residing in distant Countries.

Mr *Speaker* left the Chair.

Mr *Bland* took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr *Speaker* resumed the Chair.

Mr *Bland* reported from the Committee, that they had gone through the Bill, and made an Amendment thereunto, which they had directed him to report, when the House will please to receive the same.

Ordered, that the Report be now received.

Mr *Bland* accordingly reported from the said Committee, the Amendment which the Committee had made to the Bill, and which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendment, in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendment was twice Read, and, upon the Question put thereupon, was agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Bill, with the Amendment, be ingrossed.

Mr *Bland* presented to the House, according to order, a Bill for adding parts of the Counties of *Charlotte* and *Halifax* to the Counties of *Lunenburg* and *Mecklenburg*, respectively; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr *Bland* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to amend the Act intituled *An Act¹ for the better securing the payment of Levies and restraint of Vagrants, and for making Provision for the Poor*; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

A Petition² of sundry Inhabitants of the Counties of *Hanover*, and *Henrico*, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, setting forth, that the Main run of *Chickahominy* divides the said Counties, for many Miles, and that the antient course thereof is in some places altered, whereby the property of the Petitioners, whose lands are bounded by the said

¹ Hening's, IX, p. 216.

² Miscellaneous Papers, May 5-26, 1774.

faid Run, is become uncertain; and therefore praying, that the faid boundary may be unalterably fixed, in such manner as shall seem equitable and just; And also,

A *Petition*¹ of several Persons, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, owners of Lands in *Chickahominy* Swamp, praying, that the Commissioners, if this House shall think proper to appoint any such, to ascertain the boundaries of the said Lands, may not be connected, by affinity, or other wife, with any of the Proprietors; And also,

A *Petition* of sundry Persons, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, possessed of Lands adjoining *Chickahominy* Swamp, taking notice of the Petition intended to be presented to this House, for appointing Commissioners to ascertain the Main run of the faid Swamp; and setting forth, that several disputes between the Owners of the Lands in the faid Swamp concerning their boundaries, which have been already determined by Suits and Arbitraments, may be revived, if the Mode proposed by that Petition should be approved of, and that the Law, directing lands to be processioned, every four Years, hath established a very proper method of controverting the bounds of them; and therefore praying, that this honorable House will not interfere in the matter, but leave it to be settled in the ordinary course of Law.

Were severally *presented* to the House and read.

¹³⁶ Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

Several *Petitions* of sundry Persons of the Parish of *Augusta*, in the County of *Augusta*, whose Names are thereunto subscribed were presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the said Parish is upwards of ninety Miles long, and near eighty Miles wide; and that there are between three and four thousand Tithables in it, and but one Church; and therefore praying, that the said Parish may be divided, by a line to be run from the top of the *Blue Ridge*, opposite *John Yancey's*, to the said *John Yancey's* Plantation, thence to *James Anderson's*, on the head of the long Glade, and from thence, North fifty five Degrees West, till it strikes the *Allegany Mountains*, or in any other manner the House shall think more proper.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Religion; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A *Petition* of sundry of the Inhabitants of the Counties of *Hanover* and *Caroline*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the passage of Fish is obstructed by Mill Dams, in the North and South branches of *Pamunkey River*; and praying, that the Owners of the Mills may be obliged to make openings or Slopes in their Dams.

¹³⁷ Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

M^r *Carrington* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to repeal the Act of General Assembly, made in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled, *An Act² to amend an Act, intituled An Act for better preservation of the breed of Deer, and preventing unlawful hunting*, so far as the same relates to certain Counties; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

A *Petition* of the Attorneys at Law, practicing in the Courts of the Counties of *Augusta*, *Dunmore*, *Frederick*, *Hampshire*, and *Berkeley*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the times appointed for holding Courts in the said Counties are inconvenient, and therefore praying, that the Court days may be altered, of *Frederick*, to the first *Monday*, *Dunmore*, the second, *Augusta* and *Berkeley* the third, and *Hampshire* the last *Monday* in every Month.

Ordered,

¹ Miscellaneous Papers, May 5-26, 1774.

² Hening's, VIII, p. 591.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Courts of Justice; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A *Petition* of *John Clark* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth that the Petitioner, being a Soldier in the *Virginia* Regiment, received a Wound in a Skirmish with the *Indians* near *Fort Cumberland*, and that he is now old and helpless; and praying Relief.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House. ¹⁹⁸

A *Petition* of *Samuel Poe* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner, being a Soldier in the *Virginia* Regiment, received a Wound in the battle, when General *Braddock* was defeated, which hath in great measure disabled him ever since from getting a livelihood, and therefore praying Relief.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A *Bill* to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *John Armistead*, Gentleman, is seised, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to *M^r Edmund Pendleton*, *M^r Henry Pendleton*, *M^r Field* and *M^r Henry Lee*.

A *Bill* to encourage the making of Linseed Oyl was read a second time.

A *Motion* was made, and the Question being put, that the Bill be ingrossed; It passed in the Negative.

Resolved, that the Bill be rejected.

A *Bill* to allow the Minister of *Shelburne* Parish, in the County of *Loudoun*, the same Salary as other Ministers are intitled to receive, was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to *M^r Peyton* and *M^r Henry Lee*. ¹⁹⁹

An ingrossed *Bill*, to empower the Vestry of the Parish of *Frederick*, in the County of *Frederick*, to levy their Minister's Salary in Money, in lieu of Tobacco, was read the third time.

An ingrossed *Clause* was offered to be added to the Bill, by way of Rider, for limiting the time the Act shall be in force.

And the said *Clause* was thrice read, and, upon the Question put thereupon, was agreed to by the House to be made part of the Bill, by way of Rider.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act to empower the Vestry of the Parish of Frederick, in the County of Frederick, to levy their Minister's Salary in Money, in lieu of Tobacco*.

Ordered, that *M^r Wood* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

A *Bill* for dividing the Parish of *Botetourt*, in the Counties of *Botetourt* and *Fincastle*, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to the Committee for Religion.

M^r Nelson presented to the House, according to Order, a *Bill* to empower Trustees to sell certain intailed Lands, whereof *William Digges*, the younger, Esquire, is seised, and settling other Lands and Slaves, to be purchased, in lieu thereof; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

M^r Edmund Pendleton reported from the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, to whom the Petition of *Hugh Walker* was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petition, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolution of the Committee was read, and is as followeth, *viz*.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of the said *Hugh Walker*, praying that the Public ferry from *Urbanna*, over *Rappahanock* River,

to

to *Chetwoods*, may be discontinued, and a Public ferry established from *Urbanna*, over the said River, to the Land of the said *Hugh Walker*, on *Arm's Creek*, is reasonable.

The said *Resolution* being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that it be an Instruction to the said Committee who are appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill pursuant to the fourth Resolution of the said Committee which was reported to the House, upon *Tuesday*, the tenth day of this Instant, and which was agreed to by the House, that they have Power to receive a Clause or Clauses, pursuant to the said Resolution, this day reported, and agreed to by the House.

A *Petition* of the Inhabitants of the Town of *Alexandria*, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Act¹ of General Assembly, to prevent the raising of Hogs, and suffering them to run at large within the said Town, had not effected the purpose; and therefore praying that a fine or Tax may be imposed upon the Offenders against the said Act, and that Goats and Geese may not be raised, nor suffered to go at large in the said Town.

²⁰¹ *Ordered*, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A *Petition* of several Persons of the County of *Fairfax*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the curing of Fish hath, of late Years, become a business of such Consequence, as to deserve legislative Regulations; and therefore praying, that the exportation or sale of Fish, cured in Barrels, or otherwise, without a previous Inspection by proper Persons, may be restrained, or that such other Provisions, for preventing frauds in that Article, may be made as to the House shall seem fit.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Trade; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Ordered, that Mr *Bowyer* be added to the Committees for Religion, Propositions and Grievances, and Public Claims.

Resolved, that the sum of twenty five Pounds be paid to *Arthur Dent*, late a Soldier in the *Virginia Regiment*, and the further sum of five Pounds per Annum, during his Life, as a recompence for the Wounds he received in the service of the Country.

²⁰² *Ordered*, that Mr *Cary* do carry the resolution to the the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, eleven of the Clock.

Tuesday, the 24th of May, 14 Geo. III. 1774.

MR. *Richard Henry Lee* reported from the Committee of Courts of Justice, to whom the Petition of the Attorneys at Law, practising in the Courts of the Counties of *Augusta*, *Dunmore*, *Frederick*, *Hampshire*, and *Berkeley*, was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petition, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolution of the Committee was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the said Petition, praying that an alteration may be made in the several Court Days of the Counties of *Augusta*, *Dunmore*, *Frederick*, *Hampshire*, and *Berkeley*, is reasonable.

A *Motion* was made, and the Question being put, that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution;

It

¹ *Hening's*, VI, p. 58.

It passed in the Negative.

Resolved, that the said Petition be rejected.

A Petition of *Samuel Judkins* and *Henry Moring*, Inspectors of Tobacco at *Grays Creek* Warehouse, in the County of *Surry*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that, since the Year 1768, when the Salaries of the said Inspectors were reduced from thirty five to thirty Pounds per Annum, much larger quantities of Tobacco have been annually brought to the said Inspection than had been brought there in the preceding Years; and therefore praying, that the Petitioners may be allowed the sum of five Pounds each for the last Year, and that their Salaries, for the future may be increased to what they were before the said Reduction. 208

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A Petition of *Harry Todd* and *Aphia* his Wife was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that they are feised in fee tail, in right of the said Aphia, under the Will of *Nicholas Meriwether*, Gentleman, deceased, of and in two hundred and thirty five Acres of Land, lying in the Parish of *Saint David*, in the County of *King William*; and that the Petitioners had agreed to sell the same, being too small a Tract to settle on, to *Walker Tomlin*, who intermarried with a Sister of the said *Aphia*, and hath Lands adjoining, for one thousand Pounds of Current Money of *Virginia*; and therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill, for vesting the said Lands in the said *Walker Tomlin* in fee simple, upon his paying the said one thousand Pounds to Trustees, to be laid out in the purchase of other lands and Slaves to be settled to the same Uses.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr *Edmund Pendleton* do prepare, and bring in the same.

This House, being deeply impressed with apprehension of the great dangers, to be derived to *British America*, from the hostile Invasion of the City of *Boston*, in our Sister Colony of *Massachusetts* bay, whose commerce and harbour are, on the first Day of *June* next, to be stopped by an Armed force, deem it highly necessary that the said first day of *June* be set apart, by the Members of this House, as a day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer, devoutly to implore the divine interposition, for averting the heavy Calamity which threatens destruction to our Civil Rights, and the Evils of civil War; to give us one heart and one Mind firmly to oppose, by all just and proper means, every injury to American Rights; and that the Minds of his Majesty and his Parliament, may be inspired from above with Wisdom, Moderation, and Justice, to remove from the loyal People of America all cause of danger, from a continued pursuit of Measures, pregnant with their ruin. 204

Ordered, therefore, that the Members of this House do attend in their Places, at the hour of Ten in the forenoon, on the said first day of *June* next, in Order to proceed with the Speaker, and the Mace, to the Church in this City, for the purposes aforesaid; and that the Reverend Mr *Price* be appointed to read Prayers, and the Reverend Mr *Gwatkin*, to preach a Sermon, suitable to the Occasion.

Ordered, that this Order be forthwith printed and published.

Ordered, that the Reverend Mr *Gwatkin* be desired to Preach before this House, at the Church in this City, upon *Wednesday*, the first day of *June* next; and that Mr *Richard Henry Lee* do acquaint him therewith.

Ordered, that this House be called over upon this day Sevenight.

The Order of the Day being read, for the House to consider of the Petition of *Clementina Rind*, praying that she may be appointed Printer to the Public, in the room of her Husband *William Rind*, deceased; and also the Petition of *Alexander Purdie* Printer, for the same; and also the Petition of *John Dixon*, for the same; 205

The said Petitions were read.

Resolved, that the Printer to the Public be chosen by way of Balloting.

Ordered, that the Members of this House do immediately prepare Tickets, to be put into the Glasses, with the Name of the Person to be the said Printer.

Ordered,

Ordered, that the Glasses be brought in.

The *Glasses* being accordingly brought in;

The *Clerk* and *Serjeant at Arms* attending this House went with the same on each side of the House, to receive the said Tickets.

And the *Members* having put in their Tickets, the Glasses were brought up to the Clerk's Table.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to examine the Tickets, and that they do report to the House upon which of the said Petitioners the Majority falls.

And a *Committee* was appointed of Mr *Bland*, Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Edmund Pendleton*, Mr *Cary*, Mr *Richard Henry Lee*, and Mr *Harrison*; and they are to withdraw immediately.

206 Mr *Bland* reported from the Committee that they had examined the Tickets accordingly, and that the Majority falls upon the said *Clementina Rind*; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was twice read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

<i>Clementina Rind</i>	60.
<i>Alexander Purdie and Mr^s Rind</i>	25.
<i>John Dixon and Mr^s Rind</i>	2.

Ordered, that the said *Clementina Rind* be appointed Printer to the Public.

A *Member* returned upon a new Writ, having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and subscribed to the Test, took his place in the House.

Ordered, that Mr *Simpson*, Mr *James Henry*, and Mr *Bowdoin* be added to the Committee for Religion.

Ordered, that Mr *Simpson* and Mr *Johnson* be added to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

Ordered, that Mr *Simpson* be added to the Committee of Public Claims.

Mr *Edmund Pendleton* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to empower Trustees to sell certain Lands whereof *John Baylor*, Esquire, died seised, for payment of his Debts and Legacies; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

An ingrossed Bill for taking the privy examination of Femes Covert, residing in distant Countries, was read the third time.

207 *Resolved*, that the Bill do pass, and that the Title be, *An Act to enable Persons, living in other Counties, to dispose of their Estates in this Colony, with more Ease and Convenience, and for other purposes therein mentioned.*

Ordered, that Mr *Treasurer* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Mr *Edmund Pendleton* reported from the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, to whom several Petitions were referred, that the Committee had examined the matters of the said Petitions, and had come to several Resolutions thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterward delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *Cuthbert Bullitt*, praying that fifteen Acres of Land, at the Mouth of *Quantico Creek*, on *Potowmack River*, in the County of *Prince William*, may be laid off for a Town, is reasonable.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of sundry Persons, residing on or near the Rivers *Fluvanna* and *Rivanna*, praying that a Public ferry may be established at the Confluence of the said Rivers, is reasonable.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the several Petitions in Opposition thereto be rejected.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of Divers Inhabitants of the Counties of *Albemarle* and *Buckingham*, praying that a Public Ferry may

may be established, from the land of *John Cannon*, in the County of *Buckingham*, over ²⁰⁸ the *Fluvanna* River, to the land of *Walter King*, in the County of *Albemarle*, and from the said *Walter King's* land to the land of *John Cannon*, is reasonable.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of sundry Inhabitants of the Counties of *Albemarle* and *Buckingham*, praying that a Public Ferry may be established, from the land of *Joseph Taylor*, in *Buckingham*, over the *Fluvanna* River, to the land of *Walter King*, in *Albemarle* County, be rejected.

The said *Resolutions* being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that a Bill be brought in pursuant to the first Resolution; and that the said Committee do prepare, and bring in the same.

Ordered, that it be an instruction to the said Committee, who are appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill, pursuant to the fourth Resolution of the said Committee, which was reported to the House, upon *Tuesday*, the tenth day of this Instant, and which was agreed to by the House, that they have Power to receive a Clause or Clauses pursuant to the second and fourth Resolutions of the said Committee, this day reported, and agreed to by the House.

A *Bill* to empower Trustees to sell certain intailed lands, whereof *William Digges*, the younger, Esquire, is seised, and settling other lands and Slaves, to be purchased, in lieu thereof, was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to *Mr Nelson*, *Mr Digges*, *Mr Edmund Pendleton*, ²⁰⁹ *Mr James Taylor*, *Mr Aylett*, *Mr Corbin*, and *Mr Page*.

The *Order of the Day* being read, for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill to increase the reward for apprehending Horse Stealers, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

Resolved, that this House will, Tomorrow resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider of the said Bill.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, eleven of the Clock.

Wednesday, the 25th of May, 14 Geo. III. 1774.

THE Order of the Day being read, for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill to increase the reward for apprehending Horse Stealers, and for other purposes therein mentioned;

Resolved, that this House will, upon *Friday* next, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider of the said Bill.

Mr Richard Henry Lee reported to the House, that he had acquainted the Reverend *Mr Gwatkin*, pursuant to the order of Yesterday, that he was desired to Preach before this House, at the Church in this City, upon *Wednesday*, the first day of *June* next; and that *Mr Gwatkin* informed him, he was very sensible of the Honour the House had done him but that he was afraid he should not be able from a disorder in his Breast, to perform the Service, and therefore hoped, that the House would be pleased to excuse him.

Ordered, that the Reverend *Mr Price* be desired to Preach, before this House, at the Church in this City, upon *Wednesday*, the first day of *June* next; and that *Mr Richard Henry Lee* do acquaint him therewith.

Mr Treasurer reported from the Committee for Religion, to whom several Petitions were referred, that the Committee had examined the matters of the said Petitions, and had come to several Resolutions thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved,

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petitions of fundry Inhabitants of the Parish of *Augusta*, in the County of *Augusta*, praying that the said Parish may be divided, are reasonable.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of the Vestry of the Parish of *Saint John*, in the County of *King William*, praying that an Act may pass, to permit them to sell their present Glebe, and lay out the Money arising from such Sale in purchasing another Glebe, more conveniently situated to the advantage of their Minister, or to let the Money remain at Interest, as it may seem best to the said Vestry, is reasonable.

The said *Resolutions* being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

²¹¹ *Ordered*, that Bills be brought in pursuant to the said Resolutions; and that the said Committee do prepare, and bring in the same.

Ordered, that Mr *William Cabell* be added to the Committee for Religion, Privileges and Elections, and Propositions and Grievances.

Mr *Nelson* reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill to empower Trustees to sell certain intailed Lands, whereof *William Digges*, the younger, Esquire, is seised, and for settling other Lands and Slaves, to be purchased, in lieu thereof, was committed, that the Committee had examined the Allegations of the Bill, and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made several Amendments, thereunto, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendments, in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendments were once read throughout, and then a second time, one by one, and, upon the Question severally put thereupon, were agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Bill, with the Amendments, be engrossed.

Mr *Edmund Pendleton* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to vest certain intailed Lands in *Walker Tomlin*, Gentleman, in fee simple, and settle other Lands and Slaves, to be purchased, in lieu thereof; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a second time.

The *Bill* was accordingly read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to Mr *Edmund Pendleton*, Mr *James Taylor*, Mr *Aylett*, Mr *Patrick Henry*, Mr *Syme*, Mr *Bassett*, and Mr *Dandridge*.

²¹² A *Petition* of several Persons, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, in behalf of themselves and other Adventurers and settlers upon the Western Waters, and lands to the Westward of the *Allegany Mountains*, in this Colony, was presented to the House and Read; setting forth, that the excessive and almost insupportable expence of seating and planting those remote Lands, according to the Conditions of the Grants, and the Modes prescribed by the Laws now in force, will very much retard the settlement and cultivation of that part of the Country; that many of his Majesty's Subjects who have Titles and Claims to Lands upon the Western Waters, under the Charters, Laws and Customs of this Colony, under the Proclamation of this Government, in the Year 1754, and under the Royal Proclamation of 1763, are in danger of losing their Estates by forfeitures, for nonperformance of the said Conditions, which, it hath been impracticable for them to comply with; and that such of the Petitioners, who, as Officers or Soldiers in the first *Virginia* Regiment, have already obtained Patents, are subject to peculiar hardships, the Grants being to them in joint tenancy, and Partitions not being made, so that none of them can know what parts are their own; and therefore praying the House to take the Premises into Consideration, and grant the Petitioners such Relief as shall be thought just and reasonable.

²¹³ *Ordered*, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A Petition of several Persons of the Parish of *Stratton Major*, in the County of *King and Queen*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Vestry of the said Parish have given liberty to the Minister thereof to be absent, for eighteen Months, and have levied for him, notwithstanding, the usual Salary; and that the said Vestry, having employed a Person to do some Work for the said Parish, paid him for the same, although the Work was not done; and therefore praying, that the said Vestry may be dissolved.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Religion; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion, thereupon, to the House.

Mr *Cary* reported from the Committee of Public Claims, to whom several Petitions were referred, that the Committee had examined the matters of the said Petitions, and had come to several Resolutions thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *Alexander Gilaspy*, to be allowed for sundry Smith's Tools, which belonged to the Petitioner, when employed as an Armourer in Colonel *Byrd's* Regiment, and were lost, be rejected, being no public claim.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *John Clark*, ²¹⁴ a Soldier in the *Virginia* Regiment, is reasonable; and that the Petitioner ought to be allowed the sum of Ten pounds, for his present Relief, and the further sum of five Pounds per Annum, during Life, as a recompence for the Wounds he received in the Service of the Country.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *Samuel Poe*, a Soldier in the *Virginia* Regiment, is reasonable; and that the Petitioner ought to be allowed the sum of twenty Pounds, for his present Relief, and the further sum of five Pounds per Annum, during Life, as a recompence for the Wounds he received in the service of the Country.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *Moses Swinny*, to be allowed for a Hogshead of uninspected Tobacco, which was carried off by the Fresh in May, 1771, either from *Shockoe's* or *Byrd's* Warehouse, is reasonable; and that the Petitioner ought to be allowed the sum of Nine Pounds for the same.

The said *Resolutions* being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that it be an instruction to the Committee of Public Claims, that they make an allowance in the Book of Claims to *Moses Swinny*, pursuant to the last Resolution.

Resolved, that the sum of ten pounds be paid to *John Clark* and moreover the sum of five pounds per Annum during his Life.

Ordered, that Mr *Cary* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Resolved, that the sum of twenty Pounds be paid to *Samuel Poe*, and moreover the sum of five Pounds per annum, during his Life.

Ordered, that Mr *Cary* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Mr *Cary* reported from the Committee of Public Claims, to whom the Petition of *Simon Miller* and *Robert Reynolds*, Inspectors of Tobacco, at *Laytons* Warehouses, was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petition; and had directed him to report the same, as it appeared to them, to the House, together with the Resolution of the Committee thereupon; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

It appears to your Committee, that, notwithstanding the said Warehouses were constantly well secured with good Locks, they were broke open in the Years 1771, and

1772, and two Hogsheads of Tobacco stolen thereout; and that the Petitioners have paid the sum of £11.18.2½, for one of the said Hogsheads, and 994 Pounds of nett Tobacco, in lieu of the other:

Whereupon the Committee came to the following Resolution, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the said Petition is reasonable; and that the Petitioners ought to be reimbursed the said Sum of £11.18.2½, for one of the said Hogsheads of Tobacco, and the further sum of £8.5.8, for the other.

216 The said Resolution being read a second time;

Ordered, that the said Resolution be recommitted to the said Committee of Public Claims.

A Petition¹ of *Jane Fraser*, Widow, and Administratrix of the Estate of *John Fraser*, deceased, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the said *John Fraser*, in his lifetime, on his way to *Pennsylvania*, the place of his Residence, from the River *Ohio*, where he had been concerned in Trade with the *Indians*, in *June*, 1754, met with the Troops of his Colony, commanded by *George Washington*, Esquire, at the place called *Fort Necessity*, or the *Great Meadows*; that *Colonel Washington* pressed several Horses of the said *John Fraser*, which were carrying in his Effects, and employed them in bringing Stores, a Party of Men, and Ammunition and Provisions, to the Camp, whereby the said *John Fraser* was detained, until the Battle happened at that Place; when the *Virginia* Troops Capitulated, and all the said *John Fraser's* Goods were taken and plundered by the Enemy, for which loss the Petitioner cannot discover, that he ever received any Satisfaction; and submitting the matter to the consideration of the House, and praying such an allowance as shall seem just.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

217 Mr *Digges* presented to the House, according to Order a Bill to dock the intail of four hundred Acres of Land, whereof *Edward Harwood* and *Elizabeth* his wife, are seised, and vesting the same in *Thomas Nelson*, junior, Esquire, in fee simple; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr *Edmund Pendleton*, reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *John Armistead*, Gentlemen, is seised, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was committed, that the Committee had examined the Allegations of the Bill, and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had directed him to report the Bill to the House, without any Amendment, and he delivered the Bill in at the Clerk's Table.

Ordered, that the Bill be ingrossed.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill, to enable certain Persons to convey away their Lands; and that Mr *Bland* and Mr *Edmund Pendleton* do prepare, and bring in the same.

218 A Petition of several Persons of the County of *Accomack*, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioners and their forefathers, who inhabited the lands lying back from Navigable Water, near *Watchaprague Creek*, have, until very lately, been allowed the privilege of a way over a corner of Land, now belonging to *Caleb Upshur*, to a landing on the said Creek, for taking and bringing away Fish and Oysters, which way being but short along a Bank, and nearly on the line of the said Land, did not interfere with the Owners inclosures, and was not otherwise considerably detrimental to him; but that the said *Upshur* hath now forbidden the Petitioners from frequenting that Landing, at their Peril, whereby they are in great measure deprived of a comfortable supply of Food; and therefore praying the consideration of the House and such Relief as shall seem just.

Ordered,

¹ Miscellaneous Papers, May 5-26, 1774.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Ordered, that it be an instruction to the Committee, to whom the Bill to allow the Minister of *Shelburne* Parish, in the County of *Loudoun*, the same Salary as other Ministers are intitled to receive, that they have Power to receive a Clause or Clauses, for allowing the like Salary to the Minister of the Parish of *Cameron*, in the said County of *Loudoun*.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to examine into the State of Rolls and other public Papers, remaining in the Clerk's Office of this House, and report the same to the House, together with their Opinion, in what manner such useful Papers as are wanting or defective may be recovered or supplied.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Bland*, Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Edmund Pendleton*, Mr *Cary*, Mr *Richard Henry Lee*, Mr *Harrison*, and Mr *Jefferson*.

Ordered, that it be an instruction to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, who are appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill, pursuant to the fourth Resolution of the said Committee, which was reported to the House upon *Tuesday* the tenth Day of this Instant, and which was agreed to by the House, that they have Power to receive a Clause or Clauses, for repealing so much of one Act of Assembly, made in the twenty ²¹⁹ second Year of the Reign of King *George* the Second, intituled *An Act for the settlement and Regulation of Ferries, and for dispatch of Public Expresses*, as established a Ferry from the Land of Mr *Benjamin Cocke*, across the *Rivanna* River, in the County of *Albemarle*, to the Land of the said *Benjamin Cocke*, on the other side of the said River; and also for repealing so much of one other Act made in the thirtieth Year of the Reign of King *George* the Second, intituled *An Act for appointing several new Ferries, and for other purposes therein mentioned*, as established a Ferry from the Lands of *John Bryant*, in the County of *Albemarle*, over the *Rivanna* River, to the Land of *Edward Pye Chamberlayne*.

A Petition of several Persons of the County of *Dinwiddie*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House and read; setting forth, that the Act, made in the Seventh Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled *An Act for the preservation of the breed of Cattle*, hath not answered the purpose intended by it, Contagious distempers, notwithstanding, having been frequently communicated to the Cattle of this Colony, by such as were brought from *North Carolina* and *South Carolina*; and therefore praying that the importation of Cattle from the Southern Colonies may be totally prohibited.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, eleven of the Clock.

Thursday, the 26th of May, 14 Geo. III. 1774.

THE Order of the Day being read;

Mr *Speaker* laid before the House the Letters from the Speakers of the lower Houses of Assembly of the British Colonies in *America*, with other Papers, upon the subject matter which were referred to the standing Committee of Correspondence and Inquiry.

And the said Letters and Papers were read.

Resolved, that the said Letters and Papers be taken into Consideration upon this Day Sevenight.

Ordered,

¹ *Henings*, VI, p. 13.

² *Ibid.*, VII, p. 125.

³ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 245.

Ordered, that the said Letters and Papers be transcribed into a Book by the Clerk of the Committee of Correspondence and Inquiry.

A *Petition* of *James Rofcow* was presented to the House and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner is feised in fee tail of several valuable tracts of Land, lying in the County of *Warwick*, which are unprofitable to him, as he hath not a sufficient number of Slaves to cultivate them; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill to empower him to dispose of one of the said Tracts, called *Stanley Hundred*, and lay out the Money raised by the Sale in purchasing Slaves to be annexed to his other lands.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that *M^r Attorney General* do prepare, and bring in the same.

²²¹ *Ordered*, that leave be given to bring in a *Bill* for the Ease and Relief of the People, by paying the Burgeses in Money, for the present Session of Assembly; and that *M^r Henry Lee* do prepare, and bring in the same.

M^r Bland presented to the House, according to Order, a *Bill* to enable certain Persons to dispose of their Estates; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

A *Petition* of the Inhabitants of the Parish of *Saint James*, in the County of *Mecklenburg*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that *William Hunt*, one of the Vestrymen of the said Parish hath lately been detected in a Villianous Action; and therefore praying that the Vestry of the said Parish may be dissolved.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Religion; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

The House being informed, that the Sheriff of the County of *Fauquier* attended;

Ordered, that he amend his return of the Writ for electing a Burges to serve in this present General Assembly for the said County.

And he amended the said return accordingly.

²²² A *Petition* of *Peter Pelham*, keeper of the Public Gaol, was presented to the House and read; setting forth, that ten pounds of Tobacco per day for the maintenace of each Prisoner is too scanty an allowance, especially when the unhappy Offender is afflicted with Sicknes, which is frequently the Case; and therefore submitting the Premises to the Consideration of the House, and praying such additional allowance as shall seem reasonable.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion, thereupon, to the House.

A *Petition* of several Persons, whose names are thereunto subscribed, living near *Buffalo Creek*, in the County of *Botetourt* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that *Thomas Paxton* hath erected a Mill upon the said Creek, which hinders Fish from running up the same; and therefore praying that the said *Thomas Paxton* may be obliged to make a Slope or Opening in his Mill-Dam.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

M^r Aylett presented to the House, according to Order, a *Bill* to dock the intail of certain Lands, whereof *John West*, Gentleman, is feised, and for settling other Lands and Slaves to the same Uses; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

²²³ A *Petition* of *John Osborne*, proprietor of the Public Warehoufes for Inspection of Tobacco at *Osborne's* in the County of *Chesterfield*, was presented, to the House, and read; setting forth, that there is a good and convenient landing at *Reid's Point*, and praying that another Inspection, if another be judged necessary, may be at that place and not at *Gateville*, which is not so proper a place.

Ordered,

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

M^r Edmund Pendleton reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill to vest certain intailed Lands in *Walker Tomlin*, Gentleman, in fee simple, and settle other Lands and Slaves, to be purchased, in lieu thereof, was committed, that the Committee had examined the Allegations of the Bill, and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made several Amendments thereunto, which they had directed him to report to the House, and he read the Report in his Place and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendments, in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendments were once read throughout, and then a second time, one by one, and, upon the Question severally put thereupon, were agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Bill, with the Amendments, be engrossed.

A Petition of several Persons, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, Inhabitants of the Counties of *Prince Edward*, *Bedford*, *Pittsylvania*, *Lunenburg*, and *Amelia*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the quantity of Tobacco brought to the Warehouses at *Osborne's* in the County of *Chesterfield*, is so great that it cannot be there inspected with proper dispatch; and therefore praying, that there may be another Inspection on the Lot of *Archibald Walthall*, or on some other Lot, in the Town of *Gateville*, where there is a very good landing Place.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

M^r Henry Lee presented to the House, according to Order, a *Bill* for the Ease and Relief of the People, by paying the Burgeesses in Money for the present Session of Assembly; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

A Petition of several Persons, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, Inhabitants of the County of *Amherst*, and *also*,

A Petition of several Persons, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, inhabitants of the County of *Bedford*,

Were severally presented to the House, and read; praying that a Public Ferry may be established from the land of *Henry Trent*, in the County of *Amherst*, on the North side to the land of *Nicholas Davies*, in the County of *Bedford*, on the other side of the *Fluvanna* River.

Ordered, that the Consideration of the said Petitions be deferred til the next Session of General Assembly.

M^r Peyton reported from the Committee to whom the Bill, to allow the Minister of *Shelburne* Parish, in the County of *Loudoun* the same Salary as other Ministers are intitled to receive, was committed, that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made several Amendments thereunto, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendments, in at the Clerk's Table, where the Amendments were once read throughout, and then a second time, one by one, and upon the Question severally put thereupon, were agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Bill with the Amendments, be engrossed.

A Message from the Governor by M^r Blair:

M^r Speaker,

The Governor commands this House to attend his Excellency immediately, in the Council Chamber.

Accordingly M^r Speaker with the House, went up to attend his Excellency in the Council Chamber, where his Excellency was pleased to say to them.

M^r Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Burgeesses,

I have in my hand a Paper published by Order of your House, conceived in such Terms as reflect highly upon his Majesty and the Parliament of Great Britain; which makes it necessary for me to dissolve you; and you are dissolved accordingly.

MINUTES

of the

Committee of Correspondence

1774

MINUTES

of the

Committee of Correspondence

¹ **A**T a Meeting of the Select Committee of Correspondence, at Williamsburg, on Thursday the 6th. Jan: 1774

Present

The honorable *Peyton Randolph*, Esquire,
Robert Carter Nicholas & Dudley Digges Esq^{rs}

A Letter¹ received from the Committee of Correspondence in *Connecticut* was laid before this Committee and considered, and the following Answer thereto agreed upon.

Williamsburg, Virginia, Jan: 6, 1774.

GENT;

We have, agreeable to your Request, inquired into the Proceedings of the General Court of this Colony, on the Requisition made to them for Writs of Assistants to the Officers of his Majesty's Customs. We find two Applications of this Sort have been made, by Direction of the Commissioners of the Customs in Boston; one in the year 1769, the other in the Year 1773, and we now inclose you Copies of their Determinations; and also a Copy of the Writ approved of by the Judges. By the Form of this it appears to have been their Opinion that the Court was not warranted by the Statutes, to grant the general & standing Writs which the Commissioners had directed the Attorney General to move for, but that whenever the Officers thought these Writs necessary, upon a Motion to the Court, and an Affidavit pursuant to the Statute, they would direct a proper Writ to issue.

In Compliance with the latter part of your Request, we have attentively considered this Determination of our supreme Court, and think it strictly conformable to the Statutes, and that the Legislature, never had an Idea of giving so dangerous and oppressive a Power as that now claimed by the Commissioners. The whole Authority for issuing these Writs depend on the Stat: 12. Car: 2. Cap: 19. For the 14. Car: 2. Cap. 11. makes no Alteration in the Manner of obtaining the Writ, the 7th & 8th of Will: 3d. only extends the Laws ² relative to the Customs to the Plantations, and the 7th. Geo. 3d. directs that the supreme Courts in America shall have Power to issue them. That Statute is in these Words "That if any person or persons at any Time after the first day of September 1660 shall cause any Goods for which Custom, Subsidy, or other Duties are due, or payable by Virtue of the Act passed this Parliament (intituled a Subsidy granted to the King of Tonnage and Pounded, and other Sums of Money, payable upon merchandize exported and imported) to be landed or conveyed away without due Entry thereof first made, and the Customer or Collector, or his Deputy agreed with, that then and in such Case, upon Oath thereof made, before the Lord Treasurer, or any of the Barons of the Exchequer, or chief Magistrate of the Port or place where the Offence shall be committed, or the place next adjoining thereunto, it shall be lawful to and for the Lord Treasurer, or any of the Barons aforesaid, or chief Magistrate of the port or Place where the offence shall be committed, or the place next adjoining thereunto, to issue out a Warrant to any person or persons, thereby enabling him or them, with the Assistance of a Sheriff, Justice of the Peace, or Constable, to enter into any House in the Day-Time where such Goods are suspected to be concealed; and in Case

"of

"of Resistance, to break open such houses, and to seize and secure the same Goods so concealed; And all officers and Ministers of Justice, are hereby required to be aiding and assisting thereto."

It plainly intends to prescribe a method to the Officers of the Customs how they may obtain a power of entering and searching Houses Shops and Cellars, of breaking open Doors &c. This they propose to do by instituting a new writ, which they empower the Barons of the Exchequer to issue on an Information that such and such Things have happened, and on an Affidavit of the Truth of such Information. It cannot be doubted that this is a new writ, unknown to the common Law, and one that affects the most essential Rights and Privileges of the Subject, and therefore ought to receive in all Courts the most literal and restrained Construction. It is well known that the Judges of England have ever considered general Search Warrants as illegal and dangerous, and officers who have depended on their Authority for protection, have ever been disappointed. We may venture then to affirm that the Court of Exchequer or any other Court to whom this power is transferred, in issuing Writs of this kind, without these previous Requisites; or issuing Writs conveying a Power of doing these extraordinary Acts at all Times and on all Occasions, cannot be justified under this Statute, nor are they warranted by the Judgments of the Courts of Great Britain in any similar Instances.

When the Motion was made to the Court for these Writs, the Opinion of Mr William De Grey, who was then his Majesty's Attorney General in England, was introduced and relied upon. 1. He says "There can be no Doubt but that the superior Courts of Justice in America are bound by the 7th Geo. 3 to issue such Writs of Assistants as the Court of Exchequer in England issues in similar Cases to the Officers of the Customs.

2. "He seems surprized that the chief Justice of Pennsylvania should think he was not warranted by Law to issue a Writ commanded by the Legislature, founded on the Common Law, enforced by Acts of Parliament, and in daily Use in England, and which from the Import of the 7th Will: 3^d ought to have been set on Foot from that Time in America, and which Statute the late Act only meant to explain.

3. "He thinks the Form of the Writ issued by the Exchequer should be sent over, together with the Manner of applying for it, & granting it, by which they will see that the Power of the Customhouse officers is given by the Act of Parliament and not by this Writ, which does nothing more than facilitate the Execution of his Power, by making it a Contempt of the Court.

4. "That it is not granted upon a previous Information, nor to any particular person, nor on special Occasion. The Inconvenience of that was experienced upon the Act of 12. Car: 2. Cap: 19. and the present Method adopted in Lieu of what that Statute had prescribed.

We take the Liberty to say upon the first point, that the Courts of America are not bound to issue Writs of so dangerous a Nature, let the Practice of the Court of Exchequer be what it will, unless they are warranted by Law. To prove that they are not so, we refer to what has been said before. The 7th. Geo. 3. does not establish the Legality of the Writs of Assistants issued by the Exchequer and, in our opinion, does only intend to direct what Courts in America shall be applied to for such Writ as the Court of Exchequer may legally issue, a point which remained doubtful; a Doubt arising in this Case may shew the propriety of what has been observed, that this Act must be cautiously confined to the Letter. For Information is to be made to the Court of Exchequer, and there being no Courts of the Sort in America, strictly speaking, the Legislature thought the End of that act would be defeated, unless they should vest the same Power in some Court that did exist among us. Permit us to ask whether this Power has ever been controverted in the Courts of Westminster, and whether on such Controversy it has ever been confirmed by the Determination of the Judges. We doubt not, that Mr De Grey would have been ready enough to quote the Instances, if they had ever happened.

As to the 2^d part of his Argument, when he asserts that these Writs are commanded by the Legislature, he evidently begs the Question. The Question between us is not whether any Writs of Assistants are commanded by the Statutes, but whether the General and standing

Writ he seems so desirous of imposing on the Colonies is commanded by any Statute. This assertion therefore ought to have followed a proof that this is the Writ prescribed by the Statute which he has been prudent enough not to attempt. The Position, that they are founded on the Common Law is entirely new, as we know of no ancient Laws and Customs that gave officers of the Customs a Right to enter Houses Shops and Cellars, to break open Doors &c; but have always understood, that the secure and unmolested Enjoyment of this kind of Property, was a great Object with our Ancestors when the Constitution of our Mother Country was framed; and that whenever any Abridgment of this Right has been necessary it has always been by Acts of the Legislature; and has been generally attended with the 5 Murmurs of the people. How they have been enforced by Acts of Parliament has been explained: one Act directs how they are to be procured, another directs this Act shall extend to America, and a third substitutes the supreme Courts here in the Room of the Exchequer, where the Application is directed to be made by the first Act. Whether they should have been set on Foot from the 7th. Will: is not material in the present Discussion, but we believe the Objection would have been thought a good one, that the power of granting these Writs is given to the Barons of the Exchequer in England and cannot be assumed by any other Court.

In the third part of this Gentleman's Opinion he advises the Form of this Writ to be sent over to us, that we might see the Powers given to the Custom house Officers were given by the Act and not by the Writ. A nice Distinction very inapplicable to the present Debate. Whether these Powers are founded on the Act or the Writ is not material in a Question what those Powers are. However it had a very different Effect than was expected; it alarmed us, and made us suspect that it was a poisonous pill prepared for us, which the learned Attorney with all his Art was labouring to make palateable.

We come to the last part of the opinion, and here we think he has destroyed all that he had been endeavouring to establish before. He says that the Inconvenience of granting this Writ on a previous Information, to a particular person, and on a special Occasion, had been found under the Act of 12. Car: 2. and the present Method adopted in Lieu of what that Statute prescribed. By which we may learn that this is the method prescribed by that Act, and the Method which the Exchequer followed at first. Nothing can justify the Adoption he talks of, but an Act of Parliament allowing the Judges to alter the Method before prescribed. As there is no such Act, and the whole power of the Court of Exchequer depends on the 12. Car: 2. which directs the Writ to issue in the Manner we contend for, 6 we may safely conclude, that the Court has been in an Error, and that the American Courts will be wrong, in this Instance, to follow their Example.

We are sorry the Subject has occasioned our being so tedious, and are with great Respect

Your mo: ob^t. S^{rs}.

Peyton Randolph.

No: C. Nicholas.

Dudley Digges.

At a Meeting of the Committee of Correspondence an Inquiry at Williamsburg on Friday the 6th of May 1774

Present

The honorable Peyton Randolph, Esq;
Robert Carter Nicholas, Richard Bland,
Benjamin Harrison, Richard Henry Lee,
Dudley Digges, Edmund Pendleton and
Patrick Henry, Esquires.

The Proceedings of the Select Committee of Correspondence were laid before this Committee and read, together with the several Letters which have been received from the different Colonies, all which are ordered to be laid before the House of Burgesses now sitting.

At

At a Meeting of the Committee of Correspondence and Inquiry at Williamsburg on Wednesday the 25th of May 1774.

Prefent

The honorable *Peyton Randolph*, Esquire,
Robert Carter Nicholas, *Richard Bland*,
Richard Henry Lee, *Edmund Pendleton*,
Archibald Cary, *Dudley Digges* and
Thomas Jefferson, Esquires.

A Letter received from the Committee of Correspondence for the Colony of *New Jersey* was laid before this Committee and read,

Ordered that the said Letter be laid before the House of Burgesses now sitting.

At a Committee of Correspondence held in Williamsburg on Saturday the 28th May 1774.

Prefent

The honorable *Peyton Randolph*, Esquire,
Robert C. Nicholas, *Richard Bland*,
Edmund Pendleton, *Benjamin Harrison*,
Richard Henry Lee, *Dudley Digges*
and Thomas Jefferson, Esquires.

Ordered, that Letters be prepared to the several Committees of Correspondence on the Continent requesting their Sentiments on the Appointment of Deputies from the several Colonies to meet annually in general Congress according A Letter was accordingly prepared to the Committee of Correspondence for *Maryland*, which being read and approved of the Committee is as follows:

Williamsburg, May 28th 1774.

GENTLEMEN.

The inclosed Papers will explain to you our present political State here, with respect to the unhappy Dispute with our Mother Country. The Propriety of appointing Deputies from the several Colonies of British America to meet annually in general Congress, appears to be a Measure extremely important and extensively useful, as it tends so effectually to obtain the united Wisdom of the Whole, in every Case of General Concern. We are desirous to obtain your Sentiments on this Subject which you will be pleased to furnish us with. Being very desirous of communicating to you the Opinion and Conduct of the late Representatives on the present Posture of American Affairs as quickly as possible we beg Leave to refer you to a future Letter on these Subjects.

We are, with great Respect,

Your mo: ob^t S^{ts}.

Peyton Randolph.
No: C. Nicholas.
Dudley Digges.

To the Committee of Correspondence for Maryland.

Also Letters of the same Import, to the Committee of Correspondence for *Pennsyl-* 8 *vania*, *New York*, *New Jersey*, *Massachuset's Bay*, *Connecticut*, *New Hampshire*, *Rhode Island*, *New Castle*, *Kent* and *Suffex upon Delaware*, *North Carolina*, *South Carolina*, and *Georgia*.

Ordered, that the said Letters be sent by this Day's Post.

At a Meeting of the Select Committee of Correspondence on Tuesday the 31st of May 1774.

Several Letters from *Maryland*, *Pennsylvania* and *Massachuset's Bay* lately received by the Speaker were laid before this Committee and read.

Whereupon

Whereupon it is ordered that a Letter be immediately prepared and sent by Express to North Carolina, inclosing Copies of the Letters and papers received by this Committee, and also an Account of the Steps which had been taken in Consequence thereof.

A Letter was accordingly prepared, and being read and approved by the Committee is as follows.

Williamsburg, May 31st 1774.

GENT;

We take the earliest Opportunity of forwarding to you by Express, the inclosed Papers, which are Copies of such as we received last Sunday in the Afternoon, from Maryland. We wish most earnestly that the Sentiments of our Sister Colonies could have been known previous to the Association entered into by the late representatives of this Colony, a Copy of which together with the Resolution of our House of Burgesses, was transmitted to you last week by Post. Our Moderator, upon Receipt of the Dispatches from Maryland, immediately convened as many Members of our late House of Burgesses, as could be got together upon so short a Notice, and we yesterday took the important Business under our most serious Consideration; the Result of our Deliberations will best appear from the inclosed, which is submitted to your Judgment. It is much to be wished that it had been in our power to have done any thing more decisive at present, but our Situation would not admit of it, as you easily see from the Reasons suggested. So soon as the late Representatives have fixed their final Resolves, we will not fail to communicate them to you, in the most expeditious Manner; at present we must beg the favour of you to forward Copies of all the inclosed papers together with such Resolutions as you may think fit to adopt, to our Friends in South Carolina, with our joint Requests that they will be pleased to forward them together with their own Sentiments to Georgia. We shall hope to be favoured as soon as possible, with the Result of all your Deliberations, and have the Honour to be

Gent: your mo: ob. Ser^{ts}.

THE COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE FOR VIRGINIA.

The Committee of Correspondence for North Carolina.

The following Letter was also agreed to and ordered to be sent to the Committee of Correspondence for Maryland.

Williamsburg, 31st May 1774.

GENTLEMEN,

We had the Honor of writing the 28th Inst. to the Speaker of your Assembly inclosing him the Resolution of our late House of Burgesses and a Copy of the Association entered into by the late Representatives of Virginia upon the Dissolution of our Assembly; We suppose this Letter with the other Papers must have to Hand and that they have been communicated to you. We have now to acknowledge the Receipt of your favor of the 25th Inst¹⁰ the several Letters &c. from Boston and Philadelphia. Our Moderator without Loss of Time, immediately convened as many of the late Representatives as could be got together upon so short a Notice, and we yesterday took the Business under our most serious Consideration. The Result of our Deliberations will best appear from the inclosed, to which we take the Liberty of referring you, and beg that it may be immediately transmitted through the Hands of our Friends in Philadelphia to our friends in Boston, in the same Manner as their Sentiments and Resolutions have been conveyed to us. We Wish it had been in our Power to have done any thing more decisive, at present; but our Situation would not admit of it, as you will readily judge from the Reasons suggested by our Resolutions. We could wish to have known the Sentiments of New York; We find a Letter from the Committee of Correspondence in that Province mentioned in the Philadelphia Letter, but no Copy of it inclosed, nor the purport of it mentioned.

We

We shall hope from time to time to be favored with the Sentiments and Resolutions of all our Sister Colonies, and this in the most expeditious Manner.

We have the Honor to be, with great Resp^t.

Your mo; obt. S^{ts}.

THE COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE FOR VIRGINIA.

To the Committee of Correspondence
for Maryland.

At a Meeting of the Select Committee of Correspondence at Williamsburg on Thursday the 4th. Aug: 1774.

Ordered, that Letters be prepared to the Committee of Correspondence for Maryland & Pennsylvania, inclosing Copies of the Resolutions for appointing Deputies on the part of this Colony to meet the Deputies for the other Colonies in General Congrefs.

A Letter was accordingly prepared, read & approved of and is as follows,

W^msburg in Virg^a. Aug: 4. 1774.

GENTLEMEN:

Delegates from the different Counties in this Colony, composed of the Representatives of the People met in this City on Monday last, to consider and deliberate on the present critical and alarming Situation of the British American Colonies.

As these Matters are still the subjects of their Deliberation, we cannot at present make you so fully acquainted with their Determinations as we could wish. The Expediency and Neceffity, however, of general Congress of Deputies from the different Colonies, was so obvious, that the Meeting have already come to the Resolution respecting it, which we now n^t take the Liberty to inclose you, and of which they have directed us to give you the earliest Intelligence.

We are, with great Esteem, Gent. y^r: mo: ob^t S^{ts}

Peyton Randolph.

No: C. Nicholas.

Dudley Digges.

To the Committee of Correspondence
for Maryland.

Also a Letter of the fame Import to the Committee of Correspondence for Pennsylvania.

Ordered, that the faid Letters be fent by Exprefs.

LETTERS RECEIVED

by the

Committee of Correspondence

1774

LETTERS RECEIVED

by the

Committee of Correspondence

1774

New York.

New York,¹ Mar. 1. 1774.

³⁵ SIR,

Your Letter of the 19th. of March last together with the Resolves of the honorable House of Burgeesses of the Colony of Virginia in closed therein, which they entered into on the 12th of said month, I laid before the General Assembly of this Colony—at the Opening of this present Session; being sensible that they are of the utmost Importance, to the Rights and Liberties of the American Colonies, came to the inclosed Resolutions, which they directed to you, and to desire you will lay the same before your House of Burgeesses at their next meeting: I am also directed to return their Thanks to the Burgeesses of the ancient Colony and Dominion of Virginia for their early attention to the Rights and Liberties of America. I am,

Sir, your most humb. Servant

John Cruger,
Speaker.

Resolves inclosed¹

Assembly Chamber, City of New York 20th. Jan. 1774.

The House according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House upon the Letters received from the Speakers of several of the Houses of Assembly on this Continent inclosing the Resolutions entered into by them respectively, after sometime spent therein, Mr Speaker resumed the Chair and Col: Seaman reported from the Committee, that they had directed him to report to the House the following Resolutions to wit,

³⁶ Resolved, Nemine Contradicente, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that a standing Committee of Correspondence & Inquiry be appointed to consist of the following persons, to wit, John Cruger Esq; Speaker, James Delancy, James Jauncey, Jacob Walton, Benjamin Seaman, Isaac Wilkins, Frederick Philips, Daniel Kiffam, Zebulon Seaman, John Rapalje, Simon Boerum, John De Noyellis, and George Clinton Esquires, or any seven of them whose Business it shall be to obtain the most early and authentick Intelligence, of all such Acts and Resolutions of the British Parliament, or Proceedings of Administrations as do or may relate to or affect the Liberties and Privileges of his Majesty's Subjects in the British Colonies in America, and to keep up and maintain a Correspondence and Communication with our Sister Colonies respecting these important Considerations, and the Result of their Proceedings to lay before the House.

Resolved, also, nemine contradicente; that it is the Opinion of this Committee that the Speaker of this house prepare Draughts of Letters to the Speakers of the Assemblies on the Continent of America, inclosing these Resolutions and requesting them to lay the same before their respective Assemblies, and that he do return the Thanks of this House to the Burgeesses of Virginia, for their early Attention to the Liberties of America.

Which Resolutions having been read a second Time, Resolved, that this house doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions.

By Order of the General Assembly for the Colony of New York

GERARD BANCKER, Aft^t. Cl^k.

Connecticut.

¹ Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1774.

GENTLEMEN;

We wrote you the inclosed from New Haven—since yours of the 6th of Jan: last came to hand inclosing the form of a writ of Assistants—the Resolutions of your Assembly, or General Court, since, against granting that general one demanded by his Majesty's Commissioners of his Customs, and your Arguments on the Subject, for which we are much obliged, and consider them at once ingenious & conclusive. The Officers of the Customs here, have declined pursuing their Motion, for this Writ, and it is expected the Affair, will die in Silence with us in this Colony. Should it be revived, there is no Probability of their obtaining any, as at best such Writs are disagreeable, and of dangerous Tendency, and at this Period when the Colonies are so justly alarmed, they would not be able to obtain one, though should one be granted, yours is as full as a Writ of that kind ever in our Opinion ought to be, consistent with the Liberty of the Subject, or even the Act, by which it is demanded.

We inclose the Act of our Assembly respecting the counterfeiting the Currency of our Sister Colonies, and take Liberty to hint, that were the Laws of the Colonies respecting their Currencies, and other general Concerns, of one tenor so far as particular local Circumstances would any Way admit, it might have a most happy Tendency towards forming and strengthening that union of the Colonies on which their safety and Happiness depends.

We consider with Pleasure the Step taken by your worthy House of Burgesses, in appointing a Committee to keep up a regular Correspondence with your Sister Colonies now adopted by nearly all on the Continent, as a Basis on which the most lasting, and beneficial Union may be formed and supported.—No intelligence has been received from Great Britain or any part of Europe by us, for almost four Months, and we are anxiously expecting the ^{ss} Account how the returned Tea is received, and what Measures the present Session of Parliament will adopt respecting that, and other American Concerns.

We are, Gentlemen, with great Respect,

Your most obedient and very humble Servants

Wm. Williams.

Sam Holden Parsons.

Silas Deane.

Benj: Payne.

P. S. Since the above, Intelligence is received from London, as late as the 10th. of Jan:, with which you are doubtless favored—a Quantity of Tea arrived at Boston, and met the fate of the former, the particulars of which will be with you before this. Inclosed is a paragraph from our last Gazette.—

New Jersey.

Burlington² Mar: 14. 1774.

SIR,

The Representatives of the Province of New Jersey having been favoured with your Letter of the 19th of March last inclosing the Minutes of the honorable House of Burgesses of Virginia, and having taken the important Proposals under their Consideration, came to the Resolution herein contained, which they have directed us to transmit to you.

They have also given us Orders to return their most hearty thanks to your honorable House, for the early Attention which they have shown to the Rights and Privileges of his Majesty's Subjects in America.

The

¹ Missing.

² Wrapper only.

The Committee of Correspondence request the favour of you to direct any Letters of
 Intelligence which you may hereafter have Occasion to send for the Information of this House,
 to James Kinsey Esq; in the City of Burlington, New Jersey.

We are with great Respect

Your most obedient Servants,

J. Kinsey.

Sam: Tucker.

Hendrick Fisher.

J. Wetherill.

Ino. Hinchman.

Resolves inclosed¹

NEW JERSEY.

House of Assembly Tuesday Feb. 8. 1774.

The House resumed the Consideration of the several Letters and Resolutions of the other Houses of Assembly, on the Subject Matter of the Common Rights and Liberties of the Colonies, *And*,

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Matters aforesaid, and after sometime spent therein Mr Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr Crane Chairman of the Committee, by order of the House, reported the Resolutions of the Committee as follows, *Viz*:

1. *Resolved*, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the House should heartily accept of the Invitation, to a mutual Correspondence and Intercourse with our Sister Colonies. To which the House agreed Nemine contradicente.

2. *Resolved*, that it is the Opinion of this Committee that a Standing Committee of Correspondence & Inquiry be appointed to consist of the following Persons, *to wit*,— James Kinsey, Stephen Crane, Hendrick Fisher, Samuel Tucker, John Wetherill, Robert Friend Price, John Hinchman, John Mehelm and Edward Taylor, esquires, or any five of them, whose business it shall be to obtain the most early and authentic Intelligence of all Acts and Resolutions of the Parliament of Great Britain, or the Proceedings of Administration, that they may have any relation to, or may affect the Liberties and Privileges of his Majesty's Subjects in the British Colonies in America, and to keep up and maintain a Correspondence and Communication with our Sister Colonies, respecting those important Considerations, and that they do occasionally lay their Proceedings before the House.

To which the House agreed Nemine Contradicente.

3. *Resolved*, that it is the Opinion of this Committee that the said Committee of Correspondence do write Letters to the several Speakers of the Assemblies on the Continent of America, inclosing these Resolutions and requesting them to lay the same before their respective Assemblies, and that they do return the Thanks of the House to the Burgeses of Virginia for their early Attention to the Liberties of America.

To which the House agreed Nemine Contradicente.

a true Copy from the Journals.

RICHARD SMITH,
Clerk of Assembly.

Maryland.

Annapolis¹ May 25. 1774.

GENTLEMEN,

We this morning received a Letter from the Committee of Correspondence of Philadelphia inclosing their Resolutions with a Copy of a Letter and vote of the Town of Boston. We esteem it a very lucky Circumstance, that your General Assembly is now sitting, as it affords so good an Opportunity of instantly collecting the Sense of your Colony on a Point on which the Liberties of America must turn; and was it not absolutely necessary that

Measures

¹ Missing.

Measures should be instantly taken, we should have waited with Pleasure your Resolutions, ⁴¹ which we cannot doubt will be formed on the same generous Principles, which have hitherto actuated your Colony on every late Attempt against American Liberty.—That no Time may be lost, we shall communicate the Papers transmitted to us to every Part of our Province, and endeavor to give the strongest Impressions of the Sufferings of Boston in the Common Cause. We shall anxiously expect your Resolutions, in the mean Time we propose the Sense of the People be taken at their Meetings on the following heads.

1st. That an immediate stop be put to all Exports to Great Britain and that after a short Day to be agreed on there be no Import from Great Britain, til the Act for blocking up the Harbor of Boston be repealed.

2^d. That the Association be on Oath.

3^d. That the Gentlemen of the Law in this Province bring no suit for the Recovery of any debt due from any Inhabitant of this Province to any Inhabitant of Great Britain until the said Act be repealed.

4th. That this Province will immediately break of all Trade and Dealings with that Colony or Province which shall refuse or decline to come into Similar Resolutions with a Majority of the Colonies.

We have the most sanguine Hope, that Maryland will chearfully cooperate with your Colony to any Extent of Non Importation and non exportation. We expect Committees will be appointed, as soon as possible, through which, we hope, a cordial and free Intercourse will be established between your Colony and our Province, and that the value and Consequence of these Colonies to Great Britain will be demonstrated by withholding our Tobacco.

We are Gent. your most obedient Servants

Chas. Carroll.

Thomas Johnson. Junr.

Saml. Chase.

J. Hall.

Willm. Paca.

Malls. Hammond.

Stephen West.

inclosed in the foregoing Letter.

42

Philadelphia: May 21st. 1774.

GENTLEMEN,

You will no Doubt before the Receipt of this receive a Copy of the Act of Parliament for shutting up the Port of Boston, on Account of the Destruction of the Tea sent out by the East India Company and we know that you consider them as Sufferers in the General Cause of America.

What part you may think it your duty to Act on the Present Occasion, we must leave to your own Wisdom; and that you may be the better enabled to come to a Determination, we take the Liberty to inclose you Copies of the Papers which we received from Boston, and also Copies of a Resolve, passed by a number of the Inhabitants of this City last Evening, and of the Letter we sent to the Town of Boston inclosing the same.

We shall be glad by the first Opportunity to know the Result of your Deliberations on this interesting Busines, and are, with great Regard,

Gent,

Your most humb. Serv^{ts}.

SIGNED IN BEHALF AND BY ORDER OF
THE COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE.

Pennsylvania.

To Peyton Randolph Esq^r;
and others, principal Gent.
of Virginia.

Philadelphia: May 21. 1774.

GENTLEMEN,

We have received your very interesting Letter together with a Letter from the Town of Boston, and the Vote they have passed on the present alarming Occasion, and such Measures have been pursued, as the shortness of the time would allow: To Collect the Sense of this large

¹ Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1774.

43 *large City is difficult and when their Sense is obtained, they must not consider themselves as authorized to judge or act for this populous Province in a Business so deeply interesting as the present is to all British America.*

A very respectable number of the Inhabitants of this City was, however assembled last Evening in Order to consult what was Proper to be done, and after reading the several Papers you transmitted to us, and also a Letter from the Committee of Correspondence of New York, the inclosed Resolves were passed in which you may be assured we are sincere, and that you are now considered as suffering in the General Cause.

But what further Advice to offer on this sad Occasion, is a Matter of the greatest Difficulty, which not only requires more mature Deliberations, but also that we should take the necessary Measures to obtain the general Sentiments of our fellow Inhabitants of this Province, as well as of our Sister Colonies.

If satisfying the East India Company for the damage they have sustained, would put an end to this unhappy Controversy, and leave us on the footing of constitutional Liberty of the future, it is presumed, that neither you nor we, could continue a moment in Doubt what part to act; for it is not the Value of the Tax, but the indefeasible Right of giving and granting our own Money, from which we can never recede, that is the Matter now in Consideration.

By what Means this truly desirable Circumstance of a Reconciliation, and future Harmony with our Mother Country on constitutional Principles may be obtained is indeed a Weighty Question; whether by the Method you have suggested of a Non importation and non Exportation Agreement, or by a general Congress of Deputies from the different Colonies, clearly to state what we conceive our Rights, and make a Claim or Petition of them to his 44 Majesty in firm but decent and dutiful Terms, so as that we may know by what Line to conduct ourselves in future, are now the great Points to be determined; the latter we have great Reason to think, would be most agreeable to the People of this Province, and the first Step that ought to be taken, the former may be reserved as the last Resource should the other fail, which we trust will not be the Case, as many wise and good Men in the Mother Country begin to see the Necessity of a good Understanding with the Colonies upon the General Plan of Liberty as well as Commerce.

We shall endeavour as soon as possible to collect the Sentiments of the People of this Province and the neighboring Colonies on these grand Questions, and should also be glad to know your Sentiments thereon. In the meantime with sincere fellow feeling for your Sufferings and great Regard to your Persons. We are &c

Copy of the Letter from Boston.

Boston¹ May 13th. 1774.

GENTLEMEN,

I am desired by the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of this Town to inclose you an attested Copy of their Vote passed in Town meeting legally assembled this Day. The Occasion of this Meeting is most alarming: We have received a Copy of an Act of the British Parliament (which is also inclosed wherein it appears that the Inhabitants of this Town have been tried and condemned, and are to be punished by shutting up the Harbor and other ways, without their having been called to answer for, nay, for ought that appears without their having been accused of, any Crime committed by them; for no such Crime is alleged in the Act.

The Town of Boston is now suffering the Stroke of Vengeance in the Common Cause of America. I hope they will sustain the Blow with a becoming fortitude; and that the Effects of this cruel Act, intended to intimidate and subdue the Spirits of all America, will by the joint Efforts of all be frustrated.

The

¹ Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1774.

The People receive this Edict with Indignation. It is expected by their Enemies, and feared by some of their friends, that this Town singly will not be able to support the Cause under so severe a trial; as the very being of every Colony, considered as a free People, depends upon the Event, a Thought so dishonorable to our Brethren cannot be entertained, as that this Town will now be left to struggle alone.

General Gage is just arrived here, with a Commission to supersede Gov^r. Hutchinson. It is said that the Town of Salem about twenty Miles east of this Metropolis, is to be the Seat of Government. That the Commissioners of the Customs and their numerous Retinue are to remove to the Town of Marblehead, a Town contiguous to Salem, and that this if the General shall think proper is to be a garrisoned Town. Reports are various & contradictory.

I have inclosed a Copy of the Town's Vote for each of the Colonies Southward of your Province, which I beg you to forward with all possible Dispatch, together with your own Sentiments thereon.

I am with great Regard

Gent. your humble Serv^r.

Samuel Adams.

To the Committee of
Correspondence for the City of
Philadelphia.¹

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and duly warned in Publick Town-Meeting assembled at Faneuil Hall on Friday the 13th day of May 1774.

Voted, that it is the Opinion of this Town that if the other Colonies come into a joint Resolution, to stop all Importations from Great Britain and Exportations to Great Britain and every part of the West Indies till the Act for blocking up this Harbor be repealed, the same will prove the Salvation of North America and her Liberties; on the other hand if they continue their Exports and Imports there is high Reason to fear, that fraud, Power, and the most odious Oppression, will rise triumphant over Right, Justice, social Happiness and Freedom. And, moreover that this Vote be forthwith transmitted by the Moderator to all our Sister Colonies in the Name and Behalf of this Town.

Att: WILLIAM COOPER, Town Clerk.

At a meeting of a Number of respectable Inhabitants of the City of Philadelphia¹ on Friday the 20th May 1774.

It was resolved that John Dickinson, D. William Smith, Edward Pennington, Joseph Fox, John Nixon, John Nesbitt, Samuel Howell, Thomas Mifflin, Joseph Read, Thomas Wharton, Jun^r. Benjamin Marshall, Joseph Moulder, Thomas Barclay, George Clymer, Charles Themear, Jeremiah Warden Jun^r. John Cox, John Gibson, be a Committee to correspond with our sister Colonies until some Alteration is made in this Appointment by a more general Meeting of the Inhabitants of this City.

That the said Committee be instructed to apply to the Governor to call the Assembly of the Province.

That the said Committee be instructed to write our Friends the People of Boston, informing them that we truly feel for their unhappy Situation, that we recommend to them firmness, Prudence and Moderation, and that we shall continue to evince our firm Adherence to the Cause of American Liberty.

And that the Committee do also inform our Brethren in New York, and the other Colonies of the above Resolutions.

Delaware

¹ Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1773.

Delaware.

New Castle¹ on Delaware May 26. 1774.

GENTLEMEN,

The Alarm which the British Act of Parliament, for shutting up the Port of Boston, has occasioned amongst us, makes it a Matter of Duty on this Committee to contribute, as far as they may, to a general Union of Sentiments and Measures in the Colonies, as the most effectual Method of Relief, not only from the present encroachment on the Rights of the Inhabitants of Boston, but from future Attempts of the like kind.

We consider each Colony on this Continent as parts of the same Body, and an Attack on one to affect all. The People of Boston are singled out upon this Occasion by the British Ministry for apparent Reasons, and if they can succeed so far as to procure a Submission, the like or some such Experiment will be made on each Colony in Turn; if this should happen, there would be an End to American Freedom for a Century at least.

Imports and Exports are Things undoubtedly within the Power of the Americans, and they are become of great Consequence to Great Britain, a total Ceſſation of both, as to that Kingdom, for a Time, would not only alarm in Turn, but procure Applications for our Relief from those who in all likelihood would be more favourably heard than the Americans; therefore we apprehend a Measure of this Sort a necessary previous Step in the present Exigency; and from our knowledge of the Sentiments of the People within this small Government, we can with Confidence say, that they would generally approve, and firmly Support such an Engagement, if adopted by the principal Colonies.

The Conduct of the British Parliament on this Occasion, so derogatory of the Character which that Senate once had, needs no Comment, a Shadow of Justice, a Cloak of Power used for America's Scourge indicates the Necessity of a Congress of Deputies from the several Colonies to determine and agree upon further Measures for Redress of present or future Grievances; and we are confident that if such a proposal shall be made by any one of the principal Colonies the Representatives of the People here will adopt it and embrace the first Opportunity of carrying it into Execution.

We have inclosed a Copy of the Boston Resove transmitted to us from Philadelphia as a paper omitted to be sent by their last Express to you for North Carolina.

As the Inhabitants of this Government entertain an high Opinion of the zeal and Firmness of those of your Colony in the common Cause of America, we are persuaded that their Resolutions at this important Crisis will have great Weight here, and we shall be glad to have your Sentiments thereon. In the meantime, We who are of the Committee of Correspondence for the Delaware Government.

are gentlemen,

your most ob¹ humble Serv^{ts}.

Geo. Read.

Tho. McKean.

John McKinly.

Massachusetts Bay.

Province of Massachusetts Bay ² May 28. 1774.

GENTLEMEN,

By Order of the House of Representatives of this Province, we inclose you an Act passed in the late Session of the British Parliament, intituled, An Act to discontinue in such Manner and for such Time as are therein mentioned the Landing and discharging, Lading or shipping of Goods wares and Merchandize, at the Town and within the Harbor of Boston in the Province of Massachusetts Bay in North America.

We

¹ Missing.

² Wrapper only.

We think the Archives of Constantinople might be in vain searched for a parallel—to reason upon such an Act would be Idleness. You will doubtless judge every British American Colony deeply concerned in it, and contemplate and determine upon it accordingly.

We are, with great Regard, your Friends & fellow Countrymen,

Thomas Cushing.
Samuel Adams.
James Warren.
Joseph Hawley.
Thomas Gardner.
Wm. Heath.

Resolve inclosed.¹

Province of Massachusetts Bay

In the House of Representatives May 26. 1774.

Resolved, that the Committee of Correspondence be, and they hereby are, directed to write to the Committees of Correspondence of all the British Colonies on this Continent, inclosing a Copy of an unprecedented Act of the British Parliament for shutting up the Port of Boston and otherwise punishing the Inhabitants of that Town; And desire their immediate Attention to an Act, *designed to suppress the Spirit of Liberty in America.*

a true Copy att: SAM¹. ADAMS, Cler.

Fredericksburg.

Fredericksburg,² 1st June 1774.

SIR,

By Direction of the Committee of Correspondence, for this Town, Inclose you the Copies of Resolves of the Town of Boston, Philadelphia, Annapolis, Baltimore, Alexandria and Dumfries, which came to hand this Day. Also the Resolves of a Meeting, called here on this Occasion,

I am Sir. yr. very humb^{le}. S^t.

Peyton Randolph, Esqr.

B. Johnston.

Town Clerk.

The Papers² inclosed in the above Letter having been already received by the Committee & recorded, are omitted to be entered here, but are filed in the Letter among the Papers of the Committee.

Massachusetts.

Boston³ June 4. 1774.

GENTLEMEN,

We take the earliest Opportunity to inclose you Copies of two Bills brought into Parliament, and before this Time probably enacted, which we have just received by a Vessel in thirty six Days from Bristol.

It is also confidently reported that a third Bill is to be brought into Parliament, for the better regulating the Government of the other Provinces in North America.

These Edicts cruel and oppressive as they are, we consider as but bare Specimens of what the Continent are to expect from a Parliament who claim a Right to make Laws binding us in all Cases whatever.

We are your Friends & fellow Countrymen

Thomas Cushing.
Samuel Adams.
Joseph Hawley.
Thomas Gardner.

New

¹ Missing.

² Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1774.

³ Wrapper only.

New York.

51

GENT.

New York¹ June 9. 1774.

I had the honor of receiving your Letter of the 28th. Inst^t but as the Committee of Correspondence & Inquiry appointed by the general Assembly of this Colony are at present dispersed and several of the Members at a considerable Distance from this City, an Answer to it must be postponed to a future Day. Have already dispatched Letters to convene the Members as soon as Possible, and the earliest opportunity will be embraced to take into consideration the important Matters to which your Letter and the Papers inclosed relate.

A Declaration of our Sentiments must be reserved till that can be done; but thought proper thus early to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter, and to assure you of my great Attention to the matters of such important Concern as those you mention. Shall be happy to receive the Letter in which you purpose to make a fuller Communication of your Sentiments. And am, with great Regard,

Your Mo: humb¹. Serv^t.

John Cruger.

Connecticut.

GENTLEMEN,

The honorable House of Representatives of this Colony at their last Sessions which closed the 4th. Instant came to a Number of Resolutions which you have inclosed. They also by a special Act, impowered their Committee of Correspondence and Inquiry, to join the Committee of their Sister Colonies, in holding as early as conveniently might be, a General Congress of the Committee or Delegates by them appointed to take into consideration, the 52 present melancholy and alarming Situation of America in general and of our Sister Colony of the Massachusets in particular, pursuant to this, the Committee have wrote to Boston, Portsmouth & Newport on the East; to New York, New Jersies, Philadelphia and Maryland, on the West, proposing the last week in July or the first in August for the Time, leaving the place to be resolved as may best suit the Colonies that may send representatives to attend, but at the same Time supposing New York or Philadelphia might be the proper Centre.

It is we conceive of Importance, that every Colony should be represented at such a general Conference, and much to be desired, but as the present Exigency presses, and it appearing very necessary to us, that some general Measures should be adopted seasonably occasioned our taking the Liberty of hinting at the Time and place, though some other will be equally agreeably to us, if more so to our remote Brethren. Your Answer in Season will much oblige us, by which we shall as far as possible regulate our Conduct in this important Affair—the wise, spirited and seasonable Proceedings of your truly patriotic House of Burgesses in early proposing a Correspondence between and Union of the Colonies has justly merited and universally received the approbation and grateful Acknowledgements of British America. And the manly pious and humane Attention more lately manifested to the Distresses of the Town of Boston reflects equal honor on them, as Men, as Patriots and as Christians. The Committee have been pleased to appoint me their Clerk, and whatever Letters or Commands you shall honor me with, I shall immediately lay before them.

I am on their behalf and Regard Gent. your much obliged & very h. Serv^t.

Silas Deane,
Clerk of said Committee.

53 P. S. A day of General Fasting and Humiliation was agreed on by both Houses of Assembly—also a general Contribution voted, throughout this Colony for the Relief of the poor in Boston, the Directions of both which are left with the governor and Council, and will take place soon.

Wether's Field in Connecticut

June 13. 1774.

The Printed Resolves² inclosed are filed among the Papers of the Committee, with the original Letter.

Philadelphia.

¹ Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1774.² Missing.

Philadelphia.

SIR,¹

By Order of the Committee I forward to you a Copy of the Resolves passed on Saturday last, by a very large and respectable meeting of the freeholders and other respectable Inhabitants of this City and County.

Yesterday our Committee met in order to prosecute the great and important Business entrusted to them.

All America look up to Virginia to take the Lead on the present Occasion. Our united Efforts are now necessary to ward off the impending Blow levelled at our Lives, Liberty and Property. By our second Resolve you will observe it is the general Sentiment of this province that a Congress is the most probable and most proper mode of procuring Relief for our suffering Brethren and securing our Rights & Liberties. This will give weight to every measure that may be devised. such as it appears is the Determination of our Adversaries, that we have no other Choice left, but to unite or die. some Colony must step forth and appoint the Time and Place. None is so fit as Virginia. You are ancient, you are respected; you are animated in the Cause.

It is not to be doubted but a general Congress will alarm and offend the Minister; but it is apprehended by some that the General has or will have Orders, to interrupt their proceedings.—this should be provided against in fixing the Place. there are no Troops stationed to the Southward of this City and but few here. However your Wisdom will point out the most proper Place. The Necessity of the Times calls for a speedy meeting, nothing can be resolved on to effect, until it meets. The two Bills brought into Parliament show with what unrelenting fury the Parliament are persuing their Blow given to Boston and the Province of Massachusetts Bay. the rest of the Colonies cannot be too speedy in adopting proper Measures for their Relief.

Despondency or despair are equally to be dreaded.

These are my private Sentiments which I humbly submit to you.

By order of our Committee I am to inform you that it is their Desire that all Letters for them be directed to Charles Thomson at or near Philadelphia.

I am Sir, your mo: ob¹. S¹.

Chas. Thomson.

Sec¹y. to the Committee.

The above is without date, but as it inclosed Resolves Passed in Philadelphia the 18th June 1774, we may suppose it was written about that Time, and from that place.

The Resolves² are filed among the Papers of the Committee.

Rhode Island.

New Port¹ June 20. 1774.

SIR,

Agreeable to the Directions of the General Assembly I have the honor to inclose you a Copy of certain Resolutions entered into by them respecting the very alarming Situation of the Colonies,

I have also to inform you that upon this Occasion the Assembly have adjourned to the fourth Monday in August next.

I am with very great Regard,

Sir, your mo: humble Serv¹.

Metcalf Bowler.

Speaker.

Resolutions inclosed.¹

At the general Assembly of the Governor and Company of the English Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England in America begun and holden by Adjournment at New port within and for the said Colony on the second Monday in

June

¹ Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1774.

² Missing.

June in the Year of our LORD one thousand seven hundred and seventy four and fourteenth of the Reign of his most sacred Majesty *George* the third by the Grace of GOD king of *Great Britain &c.*

This Assembly taking into the most serious Consideration several Acts of the British Parliament for levying Taxes upon his Majesty's Subjects in *America* without their Consent, and particularly an Act lately passed for blocking up the Port of *Boston*, which Act even upon the Supposition that the People of *Boston* had justly deserved Punishment, is scarcely to be paralleled in History for the Severity of the Vengeance executed upon them; and also considering to what a deplorable State this and the other Colonies are reduced, when by an Act of Parliament in which the Subjects in *America* have not a single Voice, and without being heard they may be divested of Property and deprived of Liberty, do upon mature Deliberation, *resolve*

That it is the Opinion of this Assembly that a firm and inviolable Union of all the Colonies in Councils and Measures is absolutely necessary for the preservation of their Rights, and Liberties; and that for that purpose, a Convention of the Representatives from all the Colonies ought to be holden in some suitable Place, as soon as may be, in Order to consult upon proper Measures to obtain a Repeal of the said Act, and to establish the Rights and Liberties of the Colonies upon a just and solid Foundation.

That the honorable *Stephen Hopkins* and the honorable *Samuel Ward* Esquires be and they are hereby appointed by this Assembly to represent the People of this Colony in a general Congress of Representatives from the other Colonies at such Time and place as shall be agreed upon by the major part of the Committees appointed or to be appointed by the Colonies in general.

That they consult and advise with the Representatives of the other Colonies who shall meet in such Congress upon a loyal and dutiful Petition and Remonstrance to be presented to his Majesty as the united Voice of his faithful Subjects in *America* setting forth the grievances they labour under, and praying his gracious Interposition for their Relief: *And that* in Case a major part of the Representatives of all the Colonies shall agree upon such Petition and Remonstrance they be empowered to sign the same on behalf of this Colony.

⁵⁷ *That* they also consult upon all such reasonable and lawful Measures as may be expedient for the Colonies, in an united Manner to pursue in Order to procure a Redress of their Grievances, and to ascertain and establish their Rights and Liberties.

That they also endeavor to Procure a regular annual Convention of Representatives from all the Colonies to consider of Proper Means for the preservation of the Rights and Liberties of the Colonies.

That the *Speaker* of the lower House transmit as soon as may be Copies of these Resolutions to the present or late Speakers of the respective Houses of Representatives of all the British Colonies upon the Continent.

a true Copy duly examined

Witness HENRY WARD, *Secy.*

North Carolina.

North Carolina¹ June 21. 1774.

GENTLEMEN,

We have been favoured with yours of the 31st of May last accompanied with several Letters and Papers relative to the unhappy Divisions which now prevail between Great Britain and the Colonies and the ruinous Condition on which the Town of Boston is involved as a recent Consequence of them.

We sincerely sympathize in the Distress of that brave People, and mourn over it, as over the Common Cause of America. We conceive this Attempt made on their natural and Constitutional Rights as a Presage to a similar or more flagrant Violation of the Rights of the rest of the Colonies, and that upon the Success of this in a great Measure depends the fate of American Liberty. We are of the Opinion that the Method proposed by you of a

general

⁵⁸ ¹ Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1774.

general Congress to be held by Deputies from the different Colonies, will be an expedient calculated to produce that Union in Practice and Sentiment which is necessary to give Success to the Measures which may be adopted as Regulations for their Conduct at this critical Ora. as this cannot be effected but by a Convention of the Representatives of the several Provinces from whom such a Deputation must proceed, we think that the Conduct pursued by the late Representatives of Virginia is worthy Imitation, where the Governors of the several Provinces in Obedience to ministerial Instructions or of their own Accord shall decline to convene the People in their legislative Capacity.

We had been happy if we had been now fully authorized to speak the General Sense of the People of this Province, Be assured that we will with all Possible Expedition use the best Means to obtain it. Should not our Assembly meet on the 26th of July, to which Time it now stands prorogued, we shall endeavour in some other Manner to collect the Representatives of the People, and shall immediately afterwards transmit to you what may be the Result of their Deliberations.

In the mean Time we have the fullest Confidence that the Share which they may take in this important Controversy, will not be unworthy of men, who have ever been sacredly retentive of their Constitutional Rights, & desirous to hand them unimpaired to Posterity.

They will, we flatter ourselves concur with you, that the best expedient to bring about Reconciliation with the Mother Country and her Colonies, will be to put a stop to all commercial Intercourse with her and the West Indies, and thus to carry home to Great Britain the Calamitous Consequence of her own Measures.

We cannot enough applaud the generous Spirit exhibited by the Colony of Virginia upon this Emergency and wish the Example may be as diffusive as it is truly laudable.

We are with great Respect

Gent. yr mo: ob¹. hb¹ Sev^{ts}.

John Harvey.
Edwd. Vail.
John Ashe.

Robert Howe.
Sam. Johnston.
Joseph Hewes.

Corn. Harnett.
Will Hooper.

New York.

New York¹ June 24. 1774.

GENTLEMEN,

We had the honor of your Letter of the 28th. May inclosing a Copy of the Proceedings of your House of Burgesses before their Dissolution, and the Association signed by eighty nine Members after the House was dissolved; the inclosed Copy of our Letter² to the Committee of Correspondence of the House of Representatives of the Colony of Connecticut, in one of which we herewith send you a Copy, will convey to you our Sentiments of a General Congress, and of the Powers with which we conceive ourselves invested by the general Assembly of this Colony. We shall be very happy to be made acquainted with Opinion of your late Representatives on the present Posture of American Affairs, and shall with Pleasure receive their Sentiments on these Subjects.

We are with great Respect, gent. yr. mo: ob¹. S.

John Cruger.	Fred. Philips.	Benj. Seaman.	Jas. Jauncey.
James Delancy.	Jacob Walton.	Simon Woerum.	Danl. Kissam.
Zebn. Williams.		John Rapalje.	
late Zeb. Seaman.			

P. S. Since writing the foregoing the gentlemen of our Committee returned to their Home, we received the Letter and Resolves from the Speaker of the late Assembly of Boston and the Speaker of the Assembly of Rhode Island. Copies of which we have the honor here to inclose you.

This Letter & these Resolves were before received by the Committee, from Boston & being already entered are here omitted.

Letter to Boston inclosed.³

New

¹ Missing.

² Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1774.

³ Boston Letter Missing.

New York 24. June 1774.

GENTLEMEN,

We have your Letter of June the 4th before us, inclosing the Resolves of your Assembly and a Letter to the Committee of Correspondence of Boston, and we agree with you that at this alarming Juncture, a general Congress of Deputies from the several Colonies would be a very expedient and salutary Measure. Such a Congress consisting of men of Coolness, Prudence and Understanding, would we conceive, be the best Means under Providence of restoring that Peace and Harmony between Great Britain & her Colonies, which is the surest Foundation of Happiness to both, and which every good Man, every Wellwisher to his Country ought to labour strenuously to establish. We are sorry therefore that we are not sufficiently empowered to take any Steps in Relation to so salutary a Measure; for we are a Committee of Correspondence only, & canot consistently with good Order and Propriety interfere in a Matter of such Importance, without the Appointment and Concurrence of our whole House of Representatives after what has been said, it would be needless to mention anything about the Place of meeting, only this, that if the other Colonies who may have Authority for so doing should meet in Congress, in or near this City we shall most gladly and willingly assist with our Advice &c. if necessary, which circumstanced as we are at present, is all we are enabled to do.

We should be glad however to know before we come to any final Determination on this Matter, what steps will be taken by the other Colonies, who are in the same Situation with us, by not having an Opportunity of knowing the Sentiments of their Houses of Representatives; when the Measures proposed to be adopted by them, shall be communicated to us, we shall be better able to judge what plan will be most likely to procure a Redress of our present Grievances, and promote the Union and Prosperity of the Mother Country and the Colonies, and we expect daily to receive Accounts of these Matters, of which we shall send you the most early Intelligence. We are with great esteem, Gentlemen,

Your most ob¹. Servants

John Cruger.

Ja: Jauncey.

Fred. Philips.

Jas. Delancey.

Jacob Walton.

Simon Boerum.

John Rapalje.

Danl. Kissam.

Zebulon Williams.

Benj: Seaman.

late Zebulon Seaman.

To the Committee of Correspondence
of the Colony of Connecticut.

Maryland.

Annapolis² 26. June 1774.

GENTLEMEN,

The inclosed Resolutions, which we are directed to communicate, contain the Sense of this Province of a Union and general Plan of Conduct, in Defence of the Liberties of America, in the present dangerous and truly alarming Crisis.—We feel ourselves happy in the firm and steady Spirit which animates the People of this Province to pursue those Means, which they judge the most speedy and effectual to prevent the fall of Boston and the Massachusetts Government, and by such prevention to save America from Destruction.

It is our most fervent Wish and sanguine Hope, that your Colony has the same Disposition & Spirit, and that by a general Congress such a plan may be struck out, as may effectually accomplish the grand Object in View.

We are also directed to propose that the general Congress be held at the City of Philadelphia, the twentieth of September next. The Limits of our Province and the Number of its Inhabitants, compared with yours, afforded an Opportunity of collecting our general Sense, before the Sentiments of your Colony could be regularly ascertained; and therefore, as this Province had the first Opportunity, it has taken the Liberty of making the first Proposition.

We

¹ Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1774.² Wrapper only.

We request that you will forward our Resolutions to the Colonies Southward of you.—If any Circumstance unknown to us should render the Time or Place inconvenient to your Colony, you will oblige us by advising us of it, as soon as possible, and mentioning a Time and Place more agreeable.

We shall be thankful for a speedy Communication of every Thing you may think of Consequence.

We are Gentlemen with the utmost Respect
your most obedient Serv^t.

Thomas Johnson. Junr.

Wm. Paca.

Robt. Goldsborough.

Saml. Chase.

The Resolutions¹ are filed with the Letter.

Massachusetts.

Province of Massachusetts Bay² June 17. 1774. 63

SIR,

Agreeable to the Directions of the House of Representatives in this Province, I have the honor to transmit you a Copy of certain Resolves they entered into in their present Session, by which you will perceive that it is their Opinion that a meeting of Committees from the several Colonies on this Continent is highly expedient and necessary, & that they propose that such Meeting be at the City of Philadelphia on the first day of September next, and that for the purposes mentioned in said Resolves, they have appointed a Committee of five on the Part of this Province, whom they have directed to repair to Philadelphia at the Time before mentioned.

As this appears to be a Measure absolutely necessary for the Establishment of the Rights and Liberties of the Colonies upon a just and solid Foundation & for the Restoration of Union & Harmony between both Countries, it is not doubted but it will be agreed to in your Colony, if it should, it is desired that as early Notice as possible might be transmitted to

your mo: ob^t. humble Serv^t.

The Hon^{ble} The Speaker of the
Hon^{ble} House of Burgesses
of the Colony of Virginia.

Resolves inclosed.²

Thomas Cushing
Speaker.

Province of Massachusetts Bay.

In the House of Representatives June 17th. 1774.

This House having duly considered and being deeply affected with the unhappy Differences which have long subsisted and are increasing between Great Britain and the American Colonies, do Resolve that a Meeting of Committees from the several Colonies on this Continent is highly expedient and necessary to consult upon the present State of the Colonies, and the Miseries to which they are and must be reduced by the Operation of certain Acts of Parliament respecting America; and to deliberate & determine upon wise and proper Measures, to be by them recommended to all the Colonies for the Recovery and Establishment of their Just Rights & Liberties civil and religious; and the Restoration of Union & Harmony between Great Britain and the Colonies, most ardently desired by all good Men.

Therefore Resolved that the honorable James Bowdoin, Esquire, the honorable Thomas Cushing Esq; Mr Samuel Adams, John Adams & Robert Treat Paine, Esquires, be and they are hereby appointed a Committee on the part of this Province for the purposes aforesaid, any three of whom to be a Quorum, to meet such Committees or Delegates from the other Colonies, as have been or may be appointed, either by their respective Houses of Burgesses or Representatives, or by Convention or by the Committees of Correspondence, appointed by the respective Houses of Assembly in the City of Philadelphia or any other Place that shall be judged most suitable by the Committees, on the first Day of September next; and that the Speaker of the House be directed,

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in

¹ Missing.

² Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1774.

in a Letter to the Speakers of the Houses of Burgesses or Representatives in the several Colonies, to inform them of the Substance of these Resolves.

a true Copy Att: SAM¹. ADAMS Cler.

Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia¹ July 1. 1774.

⁶⁵ GENTLEMEN,

Your favor requesting that we would communicate our Sentiments on the unhappy Dispute with the Mother Country, has been duly attended to.

We cannot consider the late Measures in Parliament in any other Light than as an additional Proof of a Resolution in the mother State to draw a Revenue from the Subject in America, without his Consent. And on this principle we conclude, that every British American Colony will esteem themselves intimately concerned in it. Under this Idea of the Intention of Parliament, it certainly behoves us cooly and dispassionately to meditate on the Consequences and to leave no rational or probable Means untried to avoid them, and to obtain that Relief which our Rights as English Subjects entitle us to demand.

What those Means ought to be, we think the several Branches of the American Legislatures, in which the People are constitutionally represented, and who are vested with their whole Powers ought to determine. We therefore only presume to give our private Sentiments, which must ever be subject to the Amendment and controul of the Body of which we are only Members, when we again mix with them.

We earnestly hope and recommend that the great Cause of American Rights may be left to the management of the Representatives of the People in every Colony as they alone are vested with a constitutional Power of enquiring into and redressing those Grievances under which the Subject may at any time be oppressed. Until this Measure shall be fairly attempted, and a Failure shall ensue, we cannot conceive the present Dispute between ⁶⁶ Great Britain and the Colonies can with any Propriety or Prudence by any other Persons whatever, or that in other hands any good Consequences can be rationally expected. And as we are in a State of Society where Order, Reason and Policy ought to prevail, every Measure which can only serve to irritate and not Convince; every Act of Violence or even the Appearance of it, should be carefully avoided, as they cannot under our present Circumstances obtain us that Relief we desire, and have a Right to expect, but on the contrary may involve all America in Difficulties which no after Wisdom or Prudence can surmount.

A Congress of Delegates, chosen either by the Representatives in Assembly or by them in Convention, appears to us the first proper Step to be taken. Nor are we dubious, but that it may be happily effected in a short Time, should calm & prudent Measures be pursued to obtain it. In this Congress composed of the Representatives, constitutionally chosen, of all concerned, and who would of Course act with Weight & Authority, something might be produced by their united Wisdom, to ascertain our Rights, and establish a Political Union between the two Countries with the Assent of both, which would effectually secure to Americans their future Rights and Privileges. Any thing short of this will leave the Colonies in their present precarious State, disunited among themselves, unsettled in their Rights, ignorant of their Duties, & destitute of that Connection with Great Britain, which is indispensably necessary to the Safety & Happiness of both.

We are, with great Regard, your assured Friends

Joseph Galloway In behalf of
Sam: Rhoads the Committee

South Carolina.

Chas^s. Town S^o. Carolina² July 8th. 1774.

⁶⁷ GENTLEMEN,

I am ordered by the most numerous Meeting of the Inhabitants of this Colony, that was ever convened together, since our unhappy Differences with the mother Country, to transmit you a Copy of their Resolutions.

Under

¹ Wrapper only.

² Committee of Correspondence, 1774.

Under the fullest Persuasion that you will readily concur in every necessary Measure that can be fallen upon for restoring to British America her just Rights & Liberties.

I am, Gentlemen, your mo: ob^t. humb: Serv^t.

G. G. Powell. Chairman.

The printed Resolutions¹ inclosed are filed with the Letter.

Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia² July 25. 1774.

GENTLEMEN,

As Mess^{rs}. Dickenson and Read are both out of Town, I am directed to inform you that our Assembly met last Week and appointed Deputies to attend the Congress.

I have likewise the honor to inclose you the Resolves and Instructions drawn up by the provincial Committee, by which you will see the Sense of this Province.

I am Gent. y^r. humb. S^t.

Chas. Thomson.

The printed Instructions¹ and Resolutions are filed with the Letter.

Maryland.

Annapolis 10th. Aug. 1774.

GENTLEMEN,

Your Letter of the fourth Inf^t. was delivered to us early this Morning, and that for Mr^r Thomson was immediately dispatched with our Concurrence in the Time and Place proposed by your Colony and South Carolina for holding the Congress.

We are Gent. with the greatest Respect, y^r. mo: ob^t. S^t.

Thos. Johnson. Junr.

Wm. Paca.

Sam: Chase.

New Jersey.

Elizabeth Town,¹ July 25th. 1774.

GENTLEMEN,

Pursuant to an Order of the Committees of the several Counties of the Colony of New Jersey convened at New Brunswick; We have the honor to acquaint you, that they have appointed us Delegates to represent this Province in the General Congress, and that we are ordered to attend the same, at the City of Philadelphia, on the first of September next, or at such other time and Place as may be agreed upon; you will be pleased to inform the Delegates of your Colony thereof, and let any Letters intended for us, be directed to Stephen Crane esquire) at Elizabeth Town; Sincerely wishing the Congress may be productive of the important End proposed

We are, gentlemen, your mo: ob^t. S^t.

John De Hart for himself &

Stephen Crane

James Kinsey

Will: Livingston &

Richd. Smith the other Delegates.

Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia¹ July 24. 1774.

SIR;

By Order of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, I have the honor to inclose a Copy of certain Resolutions entered into by them respecting the present alarming State of the Colonies, and appointing a Committee to meet the Committees of the other Colonies in Congress.

I am, with great Respect, Sir,

Y^r. mo: ob^t. S^t.

Joseph Galloway¹ Speaker.

Resolutions² filed with the Letter.

In

¹ Missing.

² Committee of Correspondence Papers, 1774.

In Assembly.

PENNSYLVANIA,

July 22nd, 1774, A. M.

The House taking into their most serious Consideration the unfortunate Differences, which have long subsisted between *Great Britain* and the *American Colonies*, and have been greatly increased by the Operation & Effects of divers late Acts of the *British Parliament*

Resolved,

That there is an absolute Necessity that a *Congress* of Deputies from the several Colonies, be held as soon as conveniently may be, to consult together upon the present unhappy State of the Colonies, and to form and adopt a Plan for the Purposes of obtaining a Redress of American Grievances, ascertaining American Rights upon the most solid, constitutional Principles, and for establishing that Union & Harmony between *Great Britain* and the Colonies, which is indispensably necessary to the Welfare and Happiness of both, Therefore—

Resolved,

That the Hon^{ble} *Joseph Galloway*, Speaker, *Samuel Rhoads*, *Thomas Mifflin*, *Charles Humphreys*, *John Worton*, *George Ross* and *Edward Biddle*, Esquires, be, and they are hereby appointed a Committee on the part of this Province for the Purposes aforesaid; and that they or any four of them, do meet such Committees or Delegates, as have been, or may be appointed either by their respective Houses of Representatives, or by Convention, or by the Provincial or Colony Committees, at such Time & Place as shall be generally agreed on by such Committees; and that the *Speaker* of this House be directed in a Letter to the *Speakers* of the Houses of Representatives of the other Colonies, to inform them of these Resolves.

Extract from the Journals

CHA^s MOORE, C^u

of Assembly.

JOURNAL

of the

HOUSE OF BURGESSES

1775

B u r g e f f e s .

Accomac	Southeay Simpson Isaac Smith	Fauquier	James Marshall *James Scott
Albemarle	Thomas Jefferson John Walker	Frederick	James Wood Isaac Zane
Amelia	John Tabb John Winn	Fincastle	William Christian Stephen Trigg
Amherst	William Cabell, Jr. *Joseph Cabell	Gloucester	Thomas Whiting Lewis Burwell
Augusta	*George Matthews Samuel McDowell	Goochland	John Woodson Thomas Mann Randolph
Bedford	*Charles Lynch John Talbot	Halifax	Nathaniel Terry Micajah Watkins
Berkeley	Robert Rutherford *John Hite	Hampshire	James Mercer Joseph Nevill
Botetourt	Andrew Lewis John Bowyer	Hanover	*Patrick Henry, Jr. John Syme
Brunswick	*Frederick Maclin Henry Tazewell	Henrico	Richard Adams Samuel DuVal
Buckingham	John Nicholas Anthony Winston	Isle of Wight	John S. Wills John Day
Caroline	James Taylor *Edmund Pendleton	James City	Robert C. Nicholas William Norvell
Charles City	*Benjamin Harrison William Acriill	Jamestown	Champion Travis
Charlotte	Paul Carrington James Speed	King & Queen	George Brooke George Lyne
Chesterfield	Archibald Cary *Benjamin Watkins	King George	Joseph Jones William Fitzhugh
Culpeper	Henry Pendleton Henry Field, Jr.	King William	Carter Braxton William Aylett
Cumberland	William Fleming John Mayo	Lancaster	James Selden Charles Carter
Dinwiddie	John Banister John Ruffin	Loudoun	Francis Peyton Jofias Clapham
Dunmore	*Francis Slaughter Abraham Bird	Louisa	*Thomas Johnson Thomas Walker
Elizabeth City	Henry King Worlich Westwood	Lunenburg	*Richard Claiborne Thomas Pettus
Essex	James Edmundson Meriwether Smith	Mecklenburg	Robert Munford *Matthew Marrable
Fairfax	*George Washington Charles Broadwater	Middlesex	Edmund Berkeley James Montagu
		Nansemond	Lemuel Riddick Willis Riddick

*Not shown by the Journal to have been present during the Session.

New Kent	Burwell Baffett Bartholomew Dandridge	Richmond	Robert Wormley Carter Francis Lightfoot Lee
Norfolk	Thomas Newton, Jr. James Holt	Southampton	Edwin Gray Henry Taylor
Norfolk Borough	Joseph Hutchings	Spotsylvania	George Stubblefield
Northampton	John Burton John Bowdoin	Stafford	Mann Page, Jr. Charles Carter
Northumberland	Peter P. Thornton *Rodham Kenner	Surry	Thomas Ludwell Lee? Allen Cocke
Orange	*Thomas Barbour James Taylor	Suffex	Nicholas Faulcon, Jr. David Mason
Pittsylvania	*Peter Perkins Benjamin Lankford	Warwick	†Michael Blow William Harwood
Prince Edward	*Peter Legrand William Bibb	Westmoreland	William Langhorne *Richard Henry Lee
Prince George	Richard Bland Peter Poythres	William and Mary College	Richard Lee John Randolph
Prince William	Henry Lee *Thomas Blackburn	Williamsburg	Peyton Randolph
Princess Anne	*William Robinson *Christopher Wright	York	Dudley Digges Thomas Nelson, Jr.

* Not shown by the Journal to have been present during the Session.

† Spelled BLEAU in Virginia Almanac, 1775.

Changes in the Personnel, 1775.

Augusta	George Matthews succeeded Andrew Lewis
Dinwiddie	John Ruffin succeeded Robert Bolling
Northampton	John Burton succeeded Adiel Milby
Stafford	Thomas Ludwell Lee succeeded John Alexander?

By his **Excellency**, the Right Honourable **John**,
Earl of **Dunmore**, his Majesty's Lieutenant and Gov-
ernor General of the Colony and Dominion of **Vir-
ginia**, and Vice Admiral of the same:

A PROCLAMATION.

Virginia, to wit:

Whereas, the General Assembly is summoned to meet on *Thursday* the eleventh of next Month, but I find no urgent Occasion for their meeting at that Time, I have therefore thought fit, by this Proclamation, in his Majesty's Name, farther to prorogue the said Assembly to the first *Thursday* in *November* next.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Colony, at *Williamsburg*, this eighth Day of *July*, in the fourteenth Year of his Majesty's Reign.

Dunmore.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

By his **Excellency**, the Right Honourable **John**,
Earl of **Dunmore**, his Majesty's Lieutenant and Gov-
ernor General of the Colony and Dominion of **Vir-
ginia**, and Vice Admiral of the same:

A PROCLAMATION.

Virginia, to wit:

Whereas, the General Assembly stands prorogued to this Day, but it is necessary that they should be further prorogued, I have therefore thought fit by and with the Consent and Advice of the Council by this Proclamation in his Majesty's Name to pro-
rogue the said Assembly to *Monday* the seventh of this Month; at which Time their Attendance is required at the Capitol in the City of *Williamsburg*, for the Dispatch of Public Busineſſ.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Colony at *Williamsburg* the third Day of *November* in the fifteenth Year of his Majesty's Reign.

Dunmore.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

By his Excellency, the Right Honourable John, Earl of Dunmore, his Majesty's Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia, and Vice Admiral of the same:

A PROCLAMATION.

Virginia, to wit:

Whereas, the General Assembly stands prorogued to this Day, but it is necessary that they should be farther prorogued, I have therefore thought fit, by and with the Consent and Advice of his Majesty's Council, by this Proclamation in his Majesty's Name to prorogue the said Assembly to *Thursday* the tenth Day of this Month, at which Time their Attendance is required at the Capitol in the City of *Williamsburg*, for the Dispatch of Public Business.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Colony at *Williamsburg* aforesaid this seventh Day of *November* in the fifteenth Year of his Majesty's Reign.

Dunmore.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

By his **Excellency**, the Right Honourable **John**,
Earl of **Dunmore**, his Majesty's Lieutenant and Gov-
ernor General of the Colony and Dominion of **Vir-
ginia**, and Vice Admiral of the same:

A PROCLAMATION.

Virginia, to wit:

Whereas, the General Assembly stands prorogued to this Day, but it is necessary that they should be farther prorogued; I have therefore thought fit, by and with the Consent and Advice of his Majesty's Council, by this Proclamation in his Majesty's Name to prorogue the said Assembly to the first *Thursday in February* next; at which Time their Attendance is required at the Capitol in the City of *Williamsburg*, for the Dispatch of Public Businels.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Colony at *Williamsburg* aforesaid this tenth Day of *November* in the fifteenth Year of his Majesty's Reign.

Dunmore.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

By his Excellency, the Right Honourable John, Earl of Dunmore, his Majesty's Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia, and Vice Admiral of the same:

A PROCLAMATION.

Virginia, to wit:

Whereas, the General Assembly stands prorogued to the first *Thursday* in the next Month; but it is judged expedient that they should be farther prorogued: I have therefore; thought proper, by and with the Consent and Advice of his Majesty's Council, by this Proclamation, in his Majesty's Name, farther to prorogue the said Assembly to the first *Thursday* in *May* next.

Given under my Hand, and the Seal of the Colony this nineteenth Day of *January*, in the fifteenth Year of his Majesty's Reign.

Dunmore.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

By his Excellency, the Right Honourable John, Earl of Dunmore, his Majesty's Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia, and Vice Admiral of the same:

A PROCLAMATION.

Virginia, to wit:

Whereas, the General Assembly stands prorogued to the first *Thursday* in the next month, but it is judged expedient that they be farther prorogued, I have therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of the Council, by this Proclamation, in his Majesty's Name, to prorogue the said Assembly to the first *Thursday* in *September* next.

Given under my hand, and the seal of the Colony, at *Williamsburg*, this eighteenth day of *April*, in the fifteenth Year of his Majesty's Reign.

Dunmore.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

By his Excellency, the Right Honourable John, Earl of Dunmore, his Majesty's Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia, and Vice Admiral of the same:

A PROCLAMATION.

Virginia, to wit:

Whereas, the General Assembly stands prorogued to the first *Thursday* in *September* next, but it is judged expedient and necessary that they should be sooner convened: I have therefore thought proper, by this Proclamation, in his Majesty's Name, to appoint the first *Thursday* in the next Month for that Purpose; at which Time their Attendance is accordingly required at the Capitol, in the City of *Williamsburg*, for the Dispatch of Public Business.

Given under my Hand, and the Seal of the Colony, at *Williamsburg*, aforesaid, this twelfth Day of *May*, in the fifteenth Year of his Majesty's Reign.

Dunmore.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Virginia, to wit:

His Excellency JOHN, Earl of DUNMORE, his Majesty's Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of VIRGINIA, and Vice-Admiral of the same to *Thomas Nelson, Richard Corbin, William Byrd, John Tayloe, Robert Carter, Robert Burwell, Ralph Wormley, junior, Esquires, John Camm Clerk, John Page and Gawin Corbin, Esquires*, Know Ye that, by virtue of the Powers and Authorities to me granted by his Majesty, I do hereby authorize and empower you the said *Thomas Nelson, Richard Corbin, William Byrd, John Tayloe, Robert Carter, Robert Burwell, Ralph Wormley, John Camm, John Page and Gawin Corbin* or any two of you to administer the Oaths appointed by Act of Parliament to be taken instead of the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, the Oath appointed to be taken by an Act of Parliament, made in the sixth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, King GEORGE the third, intituled "An Act¹ for altering the Oath of Abjuration, and the assurance, and for amending so much of an Act of the seventh Year of her late Majesty queen Anne, intituled, An Act for the improvement of the Union of the two Kingdoms, as after the time therein limited requires the delivery of certain lists and copies therein mentioned to Persons indicted of high Treason, or misprision of Treason;" as also the Test, to all such Persons as are or shall be returned to serve in this present General Assembly, as Burgeesses, as also to the Clerk of the House of Burgeesses, or Clerks of any of the Committees of the said House, that shall be appointed during this Session; and to cause them to subscribe the said last mentioned Oath, as also the Test; and to administer the Oath of Clerk to the Clerk of the said House, and also to the Clerk or Clerks of the Committees.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Colony at *Williamsburg* the first day of *June* one thousand seven hundred and Seventy five in the fifteenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign lord King *George* the third.

Dunmore.

¹ Statutes at Large—England, VI, p. 712.

JOURNAL

of the

HOUSE OF BURGESSES

GENERAL Assembly begun and held at the Capitol in the City of WILLIAMS-BURG, on THURSDAY, the first day of JUNE, in the fifteenth Year of the Reign of our Lord GEORGE the third, by the Grace of GOD, of GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, and IRELAND, King defender of the Faith, &c. Annoque Domini One thousand seven hundred and Seventy five.

On which day, being the first day of the Meeting of this General Assembly for the dispatch of public Busines purfuant to a Proclamation hereunto annexed, and also to the Writs which had iffued for that purpose, his Excellency the Right honourable *John Earl of Dunmore*, his Majefty's Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia, and Vice-Admiral of the fame, having made a Commission under his Hand, and the Seal of the Colony, hereunto also annexed, impowering the Honourable *Thomas Nelson, Richard Corbin, William Byrd, John Tayloe, Robert Carter, Robert Burwell, and Ralph Wormley* Esquires *John Canum*, Clerk and *John Page* and *Gawin Corbin* Esquires, to administer the Oaths appointed to be taken by the Members returned to ferve in the General Assembly, before they go into the House of BurgesSES; feveral of the said Commissioners came about ten of the Clock into the Council Chamber, where the said Oaths are uſually taken, and *George Wythe*, Clerk of the House of BurgesSES attending according to his Duty, with a book, containing a list of the Names of ſuch Members as had been returned to ferve in the General Assembly and with the 233 Writs for electing them delivered to him by the Clerk of the Secretary's Office; the ſaid Commissioners administered the ſaid Oaths to ſuch of the ſaid Members of the House of BurgesSES as appeared: which being done the Members repaired to their Seats in the House of BurgesSES.

After which a Meffage was delivered by *John Blair*, Esquire, Clerk of the General Assembly:

Gentlemen,

The Governor commands this House to attend his Excellency immediately in the Council Chamber.

Accordingly the House went up to attend his Excellency in the Council Chamber, where his Excellency was pleased to fay to them.

Gentlemen of the House of BurgesSES,

You must return again to your House, and immediately proceed to the choice of a Speaker.

And the Houſe being returned;

Henry Lee, Esquire, one of the Members for the County of *Prince William*, addressing himself to the Clerk (who ſtanding up pointed to him, and then ſat down) moved that *Peyton Randolph*, Esquire, ſhould take the Chair of this Houſe, as Speaker, which Office he had before filled with ſuch diſtinguished abilities, ſteadineſs and im-partiality as had given entire ſatisfaction to the Public: and thereupon,

Mr

M^r *Randolph* was elected without opposition, and was taken out of his place by two Members, who led from thence to the Chair; and having ascended the uppermost step; and standing there, M^r *Randolph* returned his thanks to the House for placing him again in that elevated station; and assured them that, as he had gained their favorable Opinion, of which their unanimous suffrages on this and other occasions were a Testimony equally convincing and Honourable; so he would studiously endeavor to preserve it, by a strict attention to, and faithful discharge of, his duty in any department the Public should think him worthy to serve them in; adding that he doubted not the House would judge of his future conduct with their wonted candor, and would support him with their assistance, more especially necessary at this critical season.

And thereupon he sat down in the Chair; and then the Mace (which before lay under the Table) was laid upon the Table.

Ordered, that a Message be sent to the Governor, to acquaint his Excellency, that this House, in obedience to his commands, have made choice of a Speaker, and to know his pleasure when they shall attend to present him: and that M^r *Henry Lee* and M^r *Treasurer* do wait upon with the said Message.

They accordingly withdrew, and, being returned M^r *Treasurer* reported, that the Governor was pleased to say he would send an answer by a Messenger of his own.

A Message from the Governor by M^r *Blair*:

M^r *Speaker*,

The Governor commands this House to attend his Excellency immediately in the Council Chamber.

Accordingly M^r *Speaker* elect, with the House, went up to attend his Excellency in the Council Chamber; and he was pleased to declare his approbation of their Choice.

Then M^r *Speaker* did, in the name and on behalf of the House, lay claim to all their ancient Rights and Privileges, particularly a freedom of Speech and debate, exemption from Arrests, and protection for their Estates; and lastly, for himself, requested, that his errors might not be imputed to the House.

The Governor answered, that he should take care to defend them in all their just Rights and Privileges.

The house being returned,

M^r *Speaker* reported, that the House had attended the Governor in the Council Chamber; where his Excellency was pleased to approve the Choice they had made of him to be their Speaker, and to grant and allow to them, upon Petition of Claim made by him to his Excellency, in the Name and on the behalf of the House of Burgesses; all their ancient Rights and Privileges; particularly a freedom of Speech and debate exemption from Arrests, and protection for their Estates.

M^r *Speaker* also reported, that the Governor was pleased to make a Speech to the Council and this House; of which M^r *Speaker* said, he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a Copy; which he read to the House, and is as followeth, *viz*:

*Gentlemen of the Council, M^r *Speaker*, and
Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses,*

I have called you together to give you an Opportunity of taking the alarming State of the Colony into your Consideration, and providing Remedies against the Evils which are increasing therein; and I am induced to it at this Time particularly, because, as the Declarations of the King and Parliament, contained in the joint Address of the Lords and Commons on the seventh of February last, and his Majestys Answer, no longer admit of a Doubt that your well-founded Grievances, properly represented, will meet with that Attention and Regard which are so justly due to them so likewise the Resolution of the House of Commons, which followed on the twenty seventh of the same Month, will, I trust, have the Effect of removing the Jealousy which has been the principal Source of Disquiet and Uneasiness in the Minds of the People: Therefore, I entertain the strongest Hopes that Nothing

will

will remain, after a just Consideration of the Nature and Tendency of that Revolution, to prevent your seriously exerting yourselves to bring the Disputes, which have unhappily raged between the Mother Country and the Colonies, to a good End; to which the Step already taken by the House of Commons must be considered as a benevolent Tender, and, I hope, auspicious Advance on the Part of the Parent State.

It must now be manifest, to all dispassionate People, that the Parliament, the high and supreme Legislature of the Empire, far from having entertained Thoughts so inconsistent with the Wisdom and public Virtue which have ever distinguished that august Body, of oppressing the People of the Colonies, or of promoting the Interest of one, at the Expence of another Part of their Fellow Subjects, have only been extending their Care that the Whole, in Consideration of the Enjoyment of equal Rights, Privileges, and Advantages should be obliged, according to their Abilities and Situation, to contribute that Proportion towards the Burdens necessary for the Support of their Civil Government, and for the common Defence, which the Subjects of the same State cannot, with any Justice or consistent with their own Welfare, refuse to grant; the Principle of which having never, I believe, been denied by the People of his Majesty's Dominion of Virginia, I hope you will think it reasonable now to acknowledge the Propriety, and to engage to fulfil your Part of the Obligation it concludes.

M^r Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Burgeesses,

No specific Sum is demanded of you for these Purposes that (as I think obviously appears) your Justice and Liberality may be left to their full Scope, and that your Gift, if ²⁸⁷ you should be induced to offer any, may be, in the completest Manner, free. The Civil Government of this Country being already provided for, you will only have to declare what Proportion, and by what Means you are willing to contribute towards the public Burden of the State, Burdens to which the Mother Country hath cheerfully submitted to secure the Colonies from the Encroachments of a dangerous and vigilant Enemy: And I am warranted to say, that as it is never intended to require you to tax yourselves, without Parliament taxing the Subjects of Great Britain on the same Occasion, in a far greater Proportion, no Prudence which you shall think necessary to observe for your Security in that Particular can be disapproved of.

And I can likewise assure you, that if you should judge fit to adopt the Principle, and imitate the Example of Justice, Equity, and Moderation, in your Proposals, which actuated the House of Commons in their Resolution, declaring at once what was ultimately expected of you; such a Compliance on your Part will be considered by his Majesty not only a Testimony of your Reverence for Parliament, but also as a Mark of your Duty and Attachment to your Sovereign, who has no Object nearer his Heart than the Peace and Prosperity of his Subjects in every Part of his Dominions.

I must recommend to you to fall upon Means of paying the Officers and private Men employed in repelling the late Invasions and Incursions of the Indians, as I make no doubt you will think their Services on that Occasion deserving of your Attention.

Gentlemen of the Council, M^r Speaker, and Gentlemen
of the House of Burgeesses,

²⁸⁸ You may be assured of my cheerful Concurrence in all Measures, and ready Assent to all Laws, which it may be found expedient to adopt for the present Peace, Tranquility and Advantage of the Country; and I hope you will think it necessary to these Ends, that the Courts of Justice should forthwith be opened, in Order that the Laws may again have their due Course.

I cannot conclude without exhorting you in the most earnest Manner, to enter upon the Subject Matter, now recommended to you, with that Patience, Calmness, and Impartiality, which its great Importance requires, and to reflect upon the Benefits this Country hath received from the Support given to it by the Parent State, which I hope will animate your Zeal, now you have it in your Power, to restore that Harmony and mutual confidence which rendered both Countries so flourishing, and, in short, to pursue your true Interest, which will convert our present gloomy Apprehensions into Prospects of Peace, Happiness, and lasting Security.

Ordered,

Ordered, that the said Speech do lie upon the Table, to be perused by the Members of the Houfe.

Ordered, that the said Speech be taken into Consideration Tomorrow.

Ordered, that the Reverend *Thomas Price*, Clerk be appointed Chaplain to this Houfe, and that he attend to read Prayers, in the Houfe, every Morning, at nine of the Clock.

Ordered, that Mr *Treasurer* do go to the Council, and acquaint them, that Mr *Price* is appointed Chaplain to this Houfe, and that he will attend to read Prayers, in the Houfe, every Morning, at nine of the Clock.

Ordered, that *Robert Hyland*, *William Hicks*, *John Creagh*, and *William Drinkard* be appointed door-keepers to this Houfe, and that they give their attendance accordingly.

Ordered, that an Addrefs be made to the Governor, to order a new Writ to iffue for the electing of a Burgefs¹ to serve in this present General Assembly, for the County of *Augusta*, in the room of Mr *Charles Lewis* deceased and that Mr *Field* do wait upon his Excellency with the faid Addrefs.

Ordered, that an Addrefs be made to the Governor, to order a new Writ to iffue for the electing of a Burgefs² to serve in this present General Assembly, for the County of *Dinwiddie*, in the room of Mr *Robert Bolling*, deceased; and that Mr *Banister* do wait upon his Excellency with the faid Addrefs.

Ordered, that an Addrefs be made to the Governor, to order a new Writ to iffue for the electing of a Burgefs³ to serve in this present General Assembly, for the County of *Northampton*, in the room of Mr *Adiel Milby*, deceased; and that Mr *Bowdoin* do wait upon his Excellency with the faid Addrefs.

Ordered, that an Addrefs be made to the Governor, to order a new Writ to iffue for the electing of a Burgefs⁴ to serve in this present General Assembly, for the County of *Stafford*, in the room of Mr *John Alexander* deceased; and that Mr *Charles Carter* of *Stafford*, do wait upon his Excellency with the faid Addrefs.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, ten of the Clock.

Friday. the 2d of June. 15 Geo. III. 1775.

A Meffage from the Governor by Mr *Blair*.

Mr *Speaker*,

I am commanded by his Excellency the Governor to deliver to your Houfe the joint Address of the Lords and Commons, on the seventh of February last, and his Majesty's answer, and also the Resolution of the Houfe of Commons, on the twenty seventh of the same Month, referred to in the Speech of his Excellency to the Council and this Houfe.

And he presented the faid Papers at the Bar.

And the faid Papers were read.

Ordered, that the faid Papers do lie upon the Table, to be perused by the Members of the Houfe.

The *Order* of the day being read;

The Speech of his Excellency the Governor to the Council and this Houfe was again read by Mr *Speaker*.

Resolved, that an Addrefs be prefented to his Excellency the Governor, to affure his Lordship, that we will immediately take into our moft serious Consideration the feveral important matters contained in his Excellency's speech to the Council and this Houfe, and proceed, with that coolnes and deliberation, which ought ever to influence the Consideration, which ought ever to influence the Counfels of a free and loyal People.

Ordered,

¹ George Matthews.

² John Ruffin.

³ John Burton.

⁴ Thomas Ludwell Lee.?

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to draw up an Address, to be presented to the Governor upon the said Resolution.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Mercer*, Mr *Jefferson*, Mr *Henry Lee*, Mr *Munford*, Mr *Dandridge*, Mr *Nelson*, Mr *Jones*, Mr *Cary*, Mr *Francis Lightfoot Lee*, Mr *Whitinge*, and Mr *Charles Carter of Stafford*.

Ordered, that the Governor's Speech to the Council and this House, and the Papers therein referred to, which were ordered to lie upon the Table, be referred to the said Committee.

Several other *Members* having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament and repeated and subscribed the Test, took their Places in the House.

241 A *Journal of the Proceedings of the Congress held at Philadelphia, on the fifth day of September, 1774*, was laid before the House.

Ordered, that the said *Journal* do lie upon the Table, to be perused by the Members of the House.

Resolved, that this House will upon *Monday* next, Resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the said *Journal*.

The *Proceedings* of the Convention of Delegates for the Counties and Corporations in the Colony of *Virginia*, held at *Richmond Town*, in the County of *Henrico*, on the twentieth Day of *March*, 1775, were laid before the House.

Ordered, that the said *Proceedings* do lie upon the Table, to be perused by the Members of the House.

Resolved, that this House, will, upon *Monday* next Resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider of the said *Proceedings*.

Ordered, that a Committee for Religion be appointed.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Harwood*, Mr *Richard Lee*, Mr *Aerill*, Mr *Hutchings*, Mr *Mason*, Mr *Digges*, Mr *Nelson*, Mr *Berkeley*, Mr *Aylett*, Mr *Francis Lightfoot Lee*, Mr *Henry Lee*, Mr *Fitzhugh*, Mr *Jones*, Mr *DuVal*, Mr *Page*, Mr *Mercer*, Mr *Cary*, Mr *Attorney General*, Mr *Jefferson*, Mr *Peyton*, Mr *Banister*, Mr *Burwell*, Mr *Winn*, Mr *Woodson*, Mr *Gray*, Mr *Munford*, Mr *McDowell*, Mr *James Taylor*, of *Caroline*, Mr *Charles Carter*, of *Lancaster*, Mr *Bowyer*, Mr *Simpson*, Mr *Bowdoin*, Mr *William Cabell*, Mr *Poythress*, Mr *Norvell*, Mr *Wills*, Mr *Braxton*, Mr *Broadwater*, and Mr *Isaac Smith*: and they are to meet and adjourn from Day to Day, and to take into their Consideration all matters and things relating to Religion and Morality, and all such as 242 shall be from time to time, referred to them, and report their Proceedings with their Opinions thereupon to the House; and the said Committee are to have Power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records for their information.

Ordered, that Mr *Richard Cary* be appointed Clerk to the said Committee.

Ordered, that a Committee of Privileges and Elections be appointed.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Digges*, Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Nelson*, Mr *Richard Lee*, Mr *Whitinge*, Mr *Harwood*, Mr *Robert Wormley Carter*, Mr *Dandridge*, Mr *Holt*, Mr *Baffett*, Mr *Jones*, Mr *Francis Lightfoot Lee*, Mr *Fitzhugh*, Mr *Henry Lee*, Mr *Mason*, Mr *Mercer*, Mr *Cary*, Mr *Attorney General*, Mr *Jefferson*, Mr *Thomas Mann Randolph*, Mr *Banister*, Mr *Munford*, Mr *Charles Carter*, of *Lancaster*, Mr *William Cabell*, Mr *Fleming*, and Mr *Charles Carter of Stafford*: And they are to meet and adjourn from Day to Day, and to examine, in the first place, all returns of Writs for electing Burgeesses to serve in this present General Assembly, and compare the same with the form prescribed by Law; and to take into their consideration all such matters as shall or may come in Question, touching Returns, Elections and Privileges, and to report their Proceedings with their Opinions thereupon, from time to time, to the House; And the said Committee are to have Power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records for their information.

Ordered, that Mr *Edmund Pendleton*, junior, be appointed Clerk to the said Committee.

Resolved, that in all Cases of controverted Elections, to be heard at the Bar of this House, or before the Committee of Privileges and Elections, the Petitioners do, by 243 themselves, or by their Agents, within a convenient time, to be appointed either by the

the House or the Committee of Privileges and Elections as the matter to be heard shall be before the House, or the said Committee, deliver to the fitting Members, or their Agents, lists of the Persons intended by the Petitioners to be objected to, who voted for the fitting Members, giving in the said Lists the several heads of objection, and distinguishing the same against the Names of the Voters excepted to; and that the fitting Members do by themselves, or their Agents, within the same time, deliver the like Lists, on their part to the Petitioners, or their Agents.

Ordered, that a Committee of Propositions and Grievances be appointed.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr Jefferson, Mr Treasurer, Mr Digges, Mr Harwood, Mr Nelson, Mr Bassett, Mr Acrill, Mr Hutchings, Mr Newton, Mr Richard Lee, Mr Mason, Mr Whitinge, Mr Poythres, Mr Berkeley, Mr Aylett, Mr Holt, Mr Page, Mr Cocke, Mr Jones, Mr Robert Wormley Carter, Mr Francis Lightfoot Lee, Mr Dandridge, Mr Fitzhugh, Mr Edmondson, Mr Henry Lee, Mr Mercer, Mr Brooke, Mr Bowdoin, Mr Cary, Mr Attorney General, Mr Thomas Mann Randolph, Mr McDowell, Mr Banister, Mr Burwell, Mr Tabb, Mr Talbot, Mr Woodson, Mr Gray, Mr Henry Taylor, Mr Adams, Mr James Taylor, of Caroline, Mr Munford, Mr Charles Carter, of Lancaster, Mr Terry, Mr Henry Pendleton, Mr Bowyer, Mr Simpson, Mr William Cabell, Mr Tazewell, Mr John Nicholas, Mr Meriwether Smith, Mr Broadwater, Mr Braxton, Mr James Taylor, of Orange, Mr Charles Carter, of Stafford, and Mr Isaac Smith: And they are to meet and adjourn from Day to Day, and to take into Consideration all Propositions and Grievances that shall come legally ²⁴⁴ certified to this Assembly, and to report their Proceedings, with their Opinions thereupon, from time to time, to the House; and all such Propositions and Grievances to be delivered to the Clerk of the House, and by him to the said Committee of course. And the said Committee are to have Power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records, for their Information.

Ordered, that Mr Edmund Pendleton, junior, be appointed Clerk to the said Committee.

Ordered, that a Committee of Public Claims be appointed.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr Cary, Mr Richard Lee, Mr Newton, Mr Mason, Mr Harwood, Mr Poythres, Mr Pettus, Mr Langhorne, Mr McDowell, Mr Nevill, Mr Henry Pendleton, Mr Talbot, Mr Field, Mr Woodson, Mr Henry Taylor, Mr Gray, Mr Adams, Mr Terry, Mr Bowyer, and Mr Simpson; And they are to meet and adjourn from Day to Day, and to take into their Consideration all public Claims referred from the last to this Session of Assembly, and also all such Claims as shall be regularly certified and presented to this Session, and to report their Proceedings, with their Opinions thereupon, to the House, when they have gone through the said Claims; and all Persons that have any Claims are to deliver them to the said Committee of course, and the said Committee are to have Power to send Persons, Papers, and Records, for their Information.

Ordered, that Mr Hind Russell be appointed Clerk to the said Committee.

Ordered, that a Committee for Courts of Justice be appointed.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr Jones, Mr Pettus, Mr Westwood, Mr King, Mr Langhorne, Mr Holt, Mr Dandridge, Mr Edmondson, Mr Henry Lee, Mr Thomas Mann Randolph, Mr Montague, Mr Peyton, Mr Henry Pendleton, Mr Burwell, Mr Field, Mr Woodson, Mr Gray, Mr Henry Taylor, Mr Micajah Watkins, Mr Clapham, Mr Bibb, Mr Blow, Mr Winston, Mr Mayo, and Mr Selden: And they are to meet and adjourn from Day to Day and to take into their Consideration all matters relating to Courts of Justice and such other matters as shall from time to time, be referred to them, and to report their proceedings with their Opinions thereupon to the House; and the said Committee are to inspect the Journal of the last Session, and draw up a state of the matters then depending and undetermined, and the Progress that was made therein, and report the same to the House; and also examine what Laws have expired since the last Session and inspect such temporary Laws as will expire with the end of this Session, or are near expiring, and report the same to the House, with their Opinions which of them are fit to be revived and continued, and the said Committee are to have Power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records, for their Information.

Ordered,

Ordered, that Mr *Edmund Randolph* be appointed Clerk to the said Committee.

Ordered, that a Committee of Trade be appointed.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Nelson*, Mr *Hutchings*, Mr *Newton*, Mr *Whitinge*, Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Travis*, Mr *Pettus*, Mr *Acrill*, Mr *Bowdoin*, Mr *Faulcon*, Mr *Neville*, Mr *Brooke*, Mr *Tabb*, Mr *Winn*, Mr *Adams*, Mr *Braxton*, Mr *Day*, Mr *Lyne*, and Mr *Clapham*: And they are to meet and adjourn from day to day, and to take into their Consideration all things relating to the Trade of this Colony, and all matters that shall be, from time to time, referred to them; and to report their Proceedings, with ²⁴⁶ their Opinions, thereupon to the House. And the said Committee are to have Power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records, for their Information.

Ordered, that Mr *Richard Cary* be appointed Clerk to the said Committee.

Resolved, that eleven of the Committee for Religion, Privileges and Elections, and Propositions and Grievances, and five of any other Committee, be a sufficient number to proceed on Busines.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill for appointing Commissioners to settle the Accounts of the Militia, lately drawn out into actual Service, and for making Provision to pay the same; and that Mr *Mercer*, and Mr *Mason* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A *Petition* of *Benjamin Waller* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that upon his Petition to the late House of Burgeses, in May 1774, a Bill to confirm the Titles to sundry Houses and Lots of Land, whereof *Nathaniel Walthoe*, Esquire, died seised, to the Purchasers thereof, passed the House, and was carried to the Council, for their Concurrence; but, by the sudden dissolution of that General Assembly, the Bill dropped; and, as the same reasons still continue, therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for the like Purpose.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill purfuant to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr *Mercer* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A *Petition* of *John West* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner is seised in Fee-Tail of two thousand six hundred and ten Acres of Land, in the Parish of *Saint John*, in the County of *King William*, and that he hath two Sons ²⁴⁷ and several Daughters, and is desirous of making some Provision for his younger Children, which he is unable to do for want of a sufficient number of Slaves; and therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill, to dock the intail of the said two thousand six hundred and ten Acres of Land, and settle other Lands, with Slaves annexed, to them, in lieu thereof.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill purfuant to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr *Aylett* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A *Petition* of *William Day* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner is seised in Fee-Tail, under the Will of his Grandfather, *John Slater*, deceased, of, an in Seven hundred and fifty Acres, of Land, in the Parish of *Blisland*, in the County of *New Kent*; and that he not having any Slaves it would be advantagious to himself, as well as to those who shall succeed to the inheritance, if the said Land should be sold, and, with the Money arising from the sale, other Lands and Slaves should be purchased and settled in lieu thereof; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for that purpose.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill purfuant to the Prayer of the said Petition and that Mr *Dandridge* do prepare and bring in the same.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, ten of the Clock.

Saturday.

Saturday, the 3d of June, 15 Geo. III. 1775.

SEVERAL other *Members*, having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and subscribed the Test, took their places in the House.

Ordered, that M^r *John Walker*, and M^r *Speed* be added to the Committee for ²⁴⁸ Courts of Justice.

Ordered, that M^r *John Walker* and M^r *Lewis* be added to the Committee for Religion.

Ordered, that M^r *John Walker* be added to the Committee of Privileges and Elections.

Ordered, that M^r *Thomas Walker* and M^r *Lewis* be added to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

A *Petition* of *Edward Harwood* and *Elizabeth* his Wife was presented to the House, and read; setting forth that the Petitioners, in right of the Wife, are feised in Fee-Tail of four hundred Acres of Land, in the Parish of *Yorkhampton*, in the County of *York*, under the last Will and Testament of *George Read*, deceased, and that it will be advantageous to the Petitioners and their issue to sell the said intailed Lands, and lay out the Money arising from the sale in the purchase of other Lands and Slaves, to be settled in lieu thereof; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for that purpose.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition and that M^r *Nelson* do prepare, and bring in the same.

M^r *Aylett* presented to the House, according to Order, a *Bill* to dock the intail of certain lands whereof *John West*, Gentleman, is feised, and for settling other lands and Slaves to the same Uses; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a second time.

The *Bill* was accordingly read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to M^r *Aylett*, M^r *Brooke*, M^r *Lyne*, M^r *Bassett*, M^r *Dandridge*, M^r *James Taylor* of *Caroline*, and M^r *William Cabell*. ²⁴⁹

M^r *Mercer* presented to the House, according to order, A *Bill* to confirm the Titles to sundry Houses and Lots of Land whereof *Nathaniel Walthoe*, Esquire, died feised to the Purchasers thereof; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a second time.

The *Bill* was accordingly read the second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to M^r *Mercer*, M^r *Treasurer*, M^r *Norvell*, M^r *Digges*, and M^r *Nelson*.

M^r *Dandridge* presented to the House, according to Order, a *Bill* to dock the intail of certain Lands, whereof *William Day* is feised in fee-tail, and for settling other Lands and Slaves, to be purchased, in lieu thereof; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to M^r *Dandridge*, M^r *Bassett*, M^r *Braxton*, M^r *Aylett*, M^r *Treasurer* and M^r *Norvell*.

A *Petition* of the freeholders, and others, inhabitants of the Parish of *Washington*, in the County of *Westmoreland*, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Vestry of the said Parish were not chosen by the Parishioners, and most of them are disagreeable to the Petitioners; and that many of them have not taken the Oaths to the Government, nor repeated and subscribed the Test, nor subscribed in Vestry to be conformable to the doctrine and discipline of the Church of *England*, as the Law requires; and therefore praying that the said Vestry may be dissolved.

Ordered, ²⁵⁰

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Religion; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

A Petition of *Cecelia Collier*, Executrix of the last Will and Testament of *John Collier*, deceased, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that one *James McBride* enlisted as a Soldier in the second *Virginia* Regiment, in the Year 1760, under the Command of Colonel *Byrd*, and upon entering into the Service received the Bounty of ten pounds, and afterwards deserted, and being threatened by Colonel *Lewis* with a Prosecution in case he would refund the Money, the said *James McBride* and the said *John Collier*, the husband of the Petitioner, as his surety, executed a Bond for repayment of the said ten Pounds, with Interest which the said *James McBride*, who hath removed out of this Colony, never discharged; and that the said *John Collier* did not leave Estate sufficient to pay his Debts; but the Petitioner, who had neglected to make and return an Inventory thereof, is apprehensive she may be liable to an Action for the Debt which she is unable to pay; and therefore praying to be relieved against the said Bond.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Ordered, that the said Petition of *George Brent* and *Robert Brent* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioners are seised in Fee-Tail of a tract of Land in the County of *Fauquier*, called *Brenton*, and that it would be advantageous to them to vest the same in *William Brent*, Esquire, and settle other Lands, of greater value in lieu thereof; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for that purpose.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill according to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr *Charles Carter* of *Stafford* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A Petition of sundry inhabitants of the County of *Augusta*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; praying, that part of the said may be added to the County of *Hampshire*.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill for raising a Capital sum of forty thousand Pounds, Sterling, by subscription, and establishing a Company for opening and extending the Navigation of the River *Potowmack*; and that Mr *Mercer* and Mr *Henry Lee* do prepare, and bring in the same.

Resolved, that an Address be presented to his Excellency the Governor, requesting that his Lordship will be pleased to communicate to this House the best information he has had, respecting the number of the Militia lately drawn out into actual service, in defence of this Colony, by his Excellency's command, and the probable expence attending the same; and that his Lordship will inform the House, what Militia his Excellency has ordered on Duty, since the conclusion of the late *Indian* expedition, and for what purposes.

Ordered, that the said Address be presented to his Excellency by Mr *Mercer* and Mr *Thomas Walker*.

A Petition of *Stephen Ham*, of the County of *Amherst*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth that on *Sunday* the eighth day of *May* 1774, a negro Woman named *Juda*, belonging to the Petitioner, whilst he and his family were at Church, murdered her son *Cesar*, and afterwards set fire to the House she lived in, the flames of which communicated to the dwelling House of the Petitioner, and thereby both Houses were consumed; that, in order to escape punishment, she rushed into the dwelling House, where it was on fire, and was much burnt before she could be taken out; and that she was apprehended and committed in order to be tried for the said Crime, but died before the time of trial, and therefore praying that he may be paid for his said Slave by the Public.

Ordered,

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, With their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A Petition of the Inhabitants of the Town of Staunton, in the County of Augusta, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; praying that an Act may be passed to restrain Hogs from going at large in the said Town.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A Petition of John McKenny was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner, having voluntarily enlisted himself to serve as a Soldier in Captain George Moffetts Company, in the late expedition against the Indians, was wounded in the battle at the *Point¹* of the Kanhawa, by a bullet which passed through his left thigh, and by another shot in the Wrist of his left Arm, and by a severe blow of a Tomhawk between his Shoulders, whereby he is unable to support himself by his own labour, on which alone he depended, and therefore humbly submitting his Case to the Consideration of the House, and praying relief.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill to enable Persons, living in other Countries, to dispose of their Estates, in this Colony, with more Ease and Convenience, and for other purposes therein mentioned; and that Mr Mercer and Mr Henry Lee do prepare, and bring in the same.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill for altering and establishing the boundaries of the Counties of Stafford and King George; and that Mr Jones, Mr Fitzhugh, and Mr Charles Carter, of Stafford, do prepare, and bring in the same.

Mr Jones reported from the Committee for Courts of Justice, that the said Committee, had according to order, inspected the *Journal* of the last Session of Assembly, and drawn up a State of the matters then depending, and undetermined, and the Progress that was made therein, and had directed him to report the same, as it appeared to them to the House; and he read the report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

It appears to your Committee, that, at the first Session of the last General Assembly, the Petitions of several Persons of the County of Botetourt inhabiting the Place called the *Cow Pasture* and on *Craig's Creek* and *James River*, praying that a Road may be made over the *South Mountain* at the Expence of the Public was presented to the House and read and referred to the Committee of Trade: that the said Committee reported, that they had examined the matter of the said Petition and had come to several Resolutions thereupon, which were agreed to by the House and are as followeth. *viz.*: that the further Consideration of the said Petition be deferred till the then next Session of Assembly and that Commissioners be appointed to examine the Place proposed for the said Road who were to report the Conveniences and Inconveniences thereof to the then next Session of Assembly.

That a Petition of sundry Inhabitants of the County of Nansemond, residing on that Part of the said County, which is on the South side of the River Nottoway setting forth, that they are about thirty Miles distant from the Court House of their County but not more than thirteen Miles from the Court of the County of Southampton and therefore praying that an Act may pass for adding the aforesaid Part of the County of Nansemond to the said County of Southampton.

Also, that a Petition of the Inhabitants of the Parish of Stratton Major in the County of King and Queen setting forth that the Petitioners for several Years past have been oppressed and aggrieved by the arbitrary illegal and unwarrantable Proceedings of their

¹ Point Pleasant.

their Vestry: that the said Vestry unnecessarily built a very costly Church in the said Parish and suffered others more conveniently situated to become ruinous that the said Vestry have chosen one of their Members Clerk of the Vestry and continue him in Office contrary to law and have not observed and fulfilled the Directions of the Act of General Assembly in the Appointment of Proceffioners, and registering their Proceedings; and praying that the said Vestry may be dissolved.

Also, that a *Petition* of several Inhabitants of the Parish of *Drysdale* in the County of *Caroline* taking Notice of an Application intended to be made to the House for a Division of the said Parish, and setting forth, that the Petitioners think the Division unreasonable, and representing that it would not relieve those who wish for it without deserting both the present Churches in the Parish and building others: and praying that the said Parish may not be divided.

Also, that several *Petitions* of the Inhabitants of the County of *Caroline* setting forth that the Rivers *Mattaponi* and *Pamunkey* are capable of an extensive Navigation which might considerably lessen the Expence of carrying Commodities to Market, that all Rivers, as the Petitioners conceive, ought to remain open not only for the purpose of Commerce, but, that, the Passage for Fish being free all Men may equally partake of the natural supply of Provisions; and that the General Assembly with a View to such desirable Ends, have empowered Trustees to receive Subscriptions for clearing *Mattaponi* and *Pamunkey* in Consequence of which several sums of Money were raised and laid out, but the good Intentions of the Legislature have been wholly defeated by the erecting Mill-Dams and setting Fish Hedges and Stops across the said Rivers and humbly submitting it to the Wisdom of the House to provide an effectual Remedy to remove all present Obstructions and prevent them for the future, were severally presented to the House and read and deferred to the Consideration of the then next Session of Assembly.

That the *Petition* of several Inhabitants of the Parish of *Drysdale* in the County of *Caroline* praying that a new Parish may be formed out of the said Parish of *Drysdale*, and the adjoining Parish of *Saint Margaret* by an Union of the upper Ends thereof and several Petitions of the Parish of *Saint Margaret* in opposition thereto;

Also, that a *Petition* of sundry Inhabitants of the Parish of *Overwharton* in the County of *Stafford* setting forth, that the Election of Vestrymen of the said Parish, by Virtue of a late Act of the General Assembly, was made in an unfair, and illegal manner;

Also, that a *Petition* of sundry Inhabitants of the Parish of *Saint James*, in the County of *Mecklenburg*, setting forth that the Vestry of the said Parish having caused three large Churches and a Chapel to be built, consulted as to the Situations thereof, the Conveniency of the Vestrymen themselves rather than that of the Parishioners; that the said Vestry having agreed to receive into the Parish a Minister who was approved of by the Parishioners afterwards suddenly received another Minister who was a stranger to them; and, that the said Vestry, in order to enable one *Rogers*, a notorious Gamester, of infamous Character, to obtain holy orders gave him a Recommendation to a Benefice but took a Bond from him, with security in the Penalty of one thousand Pounds that he should not claim under the Title and severally praying that the said Vestries may be dissolved;

Also, that a *Petition* of the Freeholders, Housekeepers, and other Inhabitants of the County of *Bedford*, setting forth, that there is but one Parish in the said County, called *Russell*; which is near ninety Miles in Length, and that there is a Sufficient Number of Tithables in the same to bear the Expences of two Parishes and praying that the said Parish may be divided by a straight Line from the Mouth of *Goose Creek*, on *Staunton River*, to the upper end of *Fleming's Mountain*, on *James River*;

Also, several other *Petitions*, in opposition thereto, were severally presented to the House, and read and referred to the Committee for Religion; that the said Committee reported, that they had come to a Resolution thereupon which was agreed to by the House and is as followeth: *viz.* That the Consideration of the said Petitions be deferred till the then next Session of Assembly.

That

That the *Petition* of *Benjamin Grymes*, in behalf of himself, and his Creditors to be allowed a reasonable satisfaction for the Damage done their Slave who was recommitted to Gaol for Hogstealing and was frostbitten during his Confinement was presented to the House and read, and referred to the Committee of Claims: that the said Committee reported, that they had come to a Resolution thereupon, which was agreed to by the House, and is, as followeth: *viz.* That the Consideration of the said Petition be deferred till the then next Session of Assembly. 258

That the *Petition* of *Joseph Byrn*, praying that a Ferry may be established over *Shanandoah* River from his Land in the County of *Frederick* to the Land of *Bryan Martin*, Esquire, opposite thereto was presented to the House, and read, and referred to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; that the said Committee reported that they had come to a Resolution, which was agreed to by the House, and is as followeth; *viz.* That the Consideration of the said Petition be deferred till the then next Session of Assembly.

It also further appears to your Committee, that at the second Session of the last General Assembly it was ordered, that all such Claims and other Matters, as were referred from the last to that Session of Assembly, and also all such as were certified to that Session, be referred to the Consideration of the then next Session of Assembly;

That a *Petition* of several Persons, Inhabitants of the Counties of *Charlotte* and *Lunenburg* praying, that Leave may be given to bring in a Bill for adding to the County of *Lunenburg* all that Part of the County of *Charlotte* which lies on the East side of a Line, to be run from the Place, where *Mecklenburg* County Line strikes *Charlotte* County Line, to *Wimbush's* burnt Ordinary;

Also, that a *Petition* of *David Griffith*, Clerk, Rector of the Parish of *Shelbourne* 259 in the County of *Loudoun*, setting forth that the Petitioner's Salary according to a late Determination of the General Court, is payable at the Rate of twelve shillings, and sixpence for every hundred Pounds Weight of Tobacco, which is inadequate, and less than the Salaries received by the other Ministers of the Gospel in this Colony; and therefore praying that the Act of General Assembly allowing the Inhabitants of the County of *Loudoun* to discharge their public dues in Money at the Rate of twelve Shillings, and sixpence per hundred for the Tobacco, as to so much thereof, as relates to the Petitioner's Salary, may be repealed;

Also, that a *Petition* of *Ezekiel Young* and *Charles Marshall*, Inspectors of Tobacco at *Pitt's* and *Guildford* Warehouses, in the County of *Accomack* setting forth, that, from several unforeseen and unavoidable Accidents, a considerable Quantity of Tobacco in the Warehouse at *Tatham's* Landing was damaged, and destroyed, notwithstanding the Petitioners used all their Care and Diligence to prevent it and therefore praying such Relief as to the House shall seem just.

Also, that a *Petition* of several Persons setting forth, that a public Ferry over *Shanandoah* River, from the Land of *Thomas Bryan Martin*, Esquire, where *John Nicholas* lately lived to the Land of the Right Honourable *Thomas Lord Fairfax* in the County of *Frederick* would be very convenient and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for establishing a public Ferry at that Place;

Also that a *Petition* of several Persons, freeholders of the County of *Amherst* setting forth that the Act made at the last Session of General Assembly for amending the Act, intituled *An Act¹ for the better Preservation of the breed of Deer and preventing unlawful Hunting* had not answered the good Purposes intended by it and therefore praying, that so much of the said Act as prohibits Persons from hunting and killing Deer, until the Time thereby limited may be repealed; 258.1

Also, that a *Petition* of several Members of the Vestry of the Parish of *Saint Anne* in the County of *Albemarle*, setting forth, that only three or four Members of the present Vestry were elected by the Inhabitants, the others having been chosen to supply Vacancies by Death Removal or Resignation; and that the greater Part of the Parishioners seem

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 591.

feems dissatisfied with the Conduct of the said Vestry; and therefore praying, that the said Vestry may be dissolved.

Also, that a *Petition* of the Vestrymen of the Parish of *Saint John*, in the County of *King William* praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for selling the present Glebe of the said Parish and purchasing another more convenient, or putting the Money out at Interest;

And also, that a *Petition* of several Persons of the County of *Accomack*, setting forth, that the Roads, and Navigation to the new erected Warehouse for Inspection of Tobacco, on *Guilford Creek*, are not so good, as they are to another Place, called *Finley's Point*: and therefore praying, that an Inspection may be established at the latter Place, were severally presented to the House, and read; and deferred to the Consideration of the then next Session of Assembly.

259.1 *Ordered*, the several Petitions for dissolving the Vestry of the Parish of *Stratton Major*, for and against dividing the Parish of *Drysdale*, for and against forming a new Parish out of the Parishes of *Drysdale* and *Saint Margaret*, by an Union of the upper ends thereof, for dissolving the Vestry of the Parish of *Overwharton*, for dissolving the Vestry of the Parish of *Saint James*, and for and against dividing the Parish of *Russell*, the Petition of *David Griffith*, and the Petitions for dissolving the Vestry of the Parish of *Saint Anne*, and for selling the Glebe of the Parish of *Saint John*, in the said Report mentioned, be severally referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Religion; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and severally report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

260 *Ordered*, that the several Petitions for adding, part of the County of *Nansemond* to the County of *Southampton*, for removing and preventing obstructions in *Pamunkey* and *Mattaponi* Rivers, for ferries over *Shanandoah* River, for adding part of the County of *Charlotte* to the County of *Lunenburg*, for repealing part of the Act for amending the Act, intituled, *An Act¹ for the better preservation of the breed of Deer, and preventing unlawful hunting*, and for establishing an Inspection of Tobacco at *Finleys Point*, in the said Report mentioned, be severally referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the Matters thereof, and severally report the same, with their Opinions thereupon, to the House.

Ordered, that the several Petitions of *Benjamin Grymes*, and of *Ezekiel Young* and *Charles Marshall*, in the said Report mentioned, be severally referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Public Claims; and that they do examine the Matters thereof, and severally report the same, with their Opinions thereupon to the House.

Ordered, that the Petition for opening a Road over the *South Mountain*, and the expence of the public, in the said Report mentioned, be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Trade; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion, thereupon to the House.

A *Petition* of *David Donnam*, of the County of *Dinwiddie*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that, on the fifteenth Day of *January* last, *York* and *Abram*, two negro Men slaves of the Petitioner having departed from their Master's were apprehended, and brought before a Magistrate, as runaways, and were by him committed to the Gaol of the County of *Prince George*, in which there was at that time another Slave confined and that two days afterwards the Gaol being set on Fire was consumed, by which the Petitioner's said Slaves were burned to death; and humbly praying the consideration of the House, and such Relief as shall seem just.

261 *Ordered*, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A *Petition* of *John Robinson*, Executor of the last Will and Testament of *Peter Robinson*, deceased, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that a negro man slave named *Will*, belonging to the Estate of the said *Peter Robinson*, having absconded, and being apprehended in the County of *Louisa*, was there committed to

Gaol,

¹ *Hening's*, VIII, p. 591.

Gaol, and burnt with the Prison; and praying to be allowed the value of the said Slave by the Public.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

And then the House adjourned till Monday Morning next ten of the Clock.

Monday, the 5th of June, 15 Geo. III. 1775.

SEVERAL other Members having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and subscribed the Test, took their places in the House.

Ordered, that Mr Syme, Mr Zane and Mr Carrington be added to the Committee for Religion.

Ordered, that Mr Carrington be added to the Committee of Privileges and Elections.

Ordered, that Mr Johnson, Mr Zane, Mr Syme and Mr Carrington be added to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

Ordered, that Mr Benjamin Watkins be added to the Committee of public Claims.

Ordered, that Mr Bird and Mr Perkins be added to the Committee of Courts of Justice.

Mr Nelson presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to dock the intail of four hundred Acres of Land whereof *Edward Harwood* and *Elizabeth* his Wife are feised, and settling other Lands and Slaves in lieu thereof, and for other purposes therein mentioned; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to Mr Nelson, Mr Digges, Mr Whitinge, Mr Burwell, Mr Harwood, Mr Langhorne, Mr King and Mr Westwood.

A Petition of *Nathaniel Lyttleton Savage* was presented to the House and read; setting forth, that he is feised in Fee-Tail of eleven hundred and forty eight Acres of land, in the Parish of *Hungars* in the County of *Northampton*, purchased by him of *Kendall Lee* and *Betty* his Wife and settled on the Petitioner by An Act of General Assembly, made in the tenth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty; and that it would be of advantage to the Petitioner and his Heir and Family to sell the said land, and to settle Slaves, of equal value, to be annexed to other intailed Lands of the Petitioner, to the same uses; and therefore praying that Leave may be given to bring in a Bill for that purpose.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill according to the Prayer of the said Petition, and that Mr Bowdoin do prepare, and bring in the same.

A Message from the Governor by Mr Blair:

Mr Speaker,

I am commanded by the Governor to lay before this House his Excellency's written Message in answer to their Address, relative to the Militia lately drawn out into actual service, together with the other Papers which the Message refers to; and he presented the same at the Bar, and the Message was read, and is as followeth, viz.

Mr Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses,

In answer to a Resolution of your House, brought to me by two of your Members, that an Address be presented to me requesting me to Communicate to you the best information I have had respecting the number of the Militia, lately drawn out into Actual Service, in defence of this Colony by my Command and the probable expence attending the same; and that

that I inform you what Militia I have ordered on duty, since the Conclusion of the late Indian expedition, and for what purposes, I can only from recollection (not having been furnished with exact returns) acquaint you that the Body of Militia which Colonel Andrew Lewis conducted, and that with which I marched in Person amounted, together to about 3000 Men Officers included; But I refer you to the Lieutenants of the Counties from whence the Militia were draughted for that service, to the Commanding Officers of the different Corps, and to the Captains under them, from the Returns and lists of whose respective Companies you will obtain the information, in regard of Number and from that of expence, which you require, in the best and most particular manner.

264 With respect to what Militia have been ordered on duty since the conclusion of the Indian expedition, it was thought requisite to continue a body of one hundred men at a temporary Fort near the Mouth of the Great Kanawha as well for taking care of the Men who had been wounded in the Action between Colonel Andrew Lewis's division and the Indians, as far securing that part of the back Country from the Attempts of stragling parties of Indians, who might not be apprized of the Peace concluded, or others of the Tribes which had not joined in it.

It was likewise necessary to keep up a small body of Men at Fort Dunmore in like manner for the Security of the Country on that side, and also for guarding twelve Indian Prisoners belonging to the Mingo Tribe which had not surrendered or acceded to the Peace concluded, only, with the Shawanees; and seventy five Men were employed at this place for these purposes. Twenty five Men were likewise left at Fort Fincastle as a Post of Communication between the two others, and altogether for the further purpose of forming a Chain on the back of the Settlers to observe the Indians until we should have good reason to believe nothing more was apprehended from them; which as soon as I received favourable Accounts of, I ordered the several Posts to be evacuated and the Men to be discharged.

265 I have ordered my Letters to be laid before you, for your further information, which contain all the Orders I gave for the imbodying and drawing out the Militia upon the occasion of the Indian disturbances: and likewise the Substance of the Peace agreed to between me and the Indians, which has not been formally ratified; that having been deferred to a meeting intended to be held at Fort Dunmore this Spring, where all the Ohio Indians, for the greater solemnity were to be resent, but which I have not been able to find time to proceed to.

If there be anything further which the House shall require to be informed of, I shall be ready to give them all the Satisfaction in my Power.

DUNMORE.

Ordered, that the said Message, and the Papers therein referred to, do lie upon the Table, to be perused by the Members of the House.

Mr Treasurer reported from the Committee appointed to draw up an Address, to be presented to the Governor, that the Committee had drawn up an Address accordingly; which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the same in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table, where the same was read, and is as followeth, viz.

My Lord

We his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects the Burghesses of Virginia now met in General Assembly take this opportunity, which your Excellency hath given us to express our great Concern at the alarming Situation of our Country and those Evils brought upon us by a Departure of his Majesty's Ministers from that wise System of Administration, under the influence of which the Colonies of North America had so long and happily flourished.

266 However strangely this Country may have been misrepresented, we do solemnly avow the firmest and most unshaken Attachment to our most gracious Sovereign and his Government, as founded on the Laws and Principles of our excellent Constitution; and we shall think ourselves happy in giving his Majesty every future Testimony of our Loyalty and Affection.

We

We assure your Lordship that we will pursue the most speedy Measures for defraying the Expences of the late military Expedition against the Indians. That proper Provision has not yet been made for those gallant Officers and Soldiers, who so nobly exposed their Lives in defence of this Country cannot be justly imputed to any delay or Neglect on our Part, this being the first Opportunity your Lordship hath been pleased to afford us of paying a proper Attention to their signal Services and giving them their due Reward.

The Occlusion of our Courts of Justice can only be ascribed to a Combination of unoward and distressing Incidents, which we have long and deeply lamented. These Courts, my Lord, were established by different Acts of our General Assembly. In order to enable the Officers of Justice to receive such fees as were adequate to their Services our Ancestors judged it necessary to settle and limit them by an express Act¹ of their Legislature. This Law had existed and been continued with various Amendments, such as the Fluctuation of Affairs made necessary, thro' a long Tract of Time. The late House of Burgeesses in May 1774 finding that the fee Bill had expired just before they were convened and that other most valuable Acts were near Expiring proceeded to the Continuance and Revival of them; but their Endeavours to discharge these and other Important Duties to their Country were arrested and cut short by a sudden and unexpected Dissolution of the Assembly. Since this, my Lord, our Situation has undergone a total Change. For just and well known Reasons, this Country, as well as our Sister Colonies have been driven to the Necessity of suspending their Commerce with Great Britain, Ireland and the West India Islands. There still, however, remained, within the Line of former Parliamentary Regulations, several other valuable Branches of Export to different Parts of the World, which we well hoped would have enabled the Inhabitants of this Country to discharge their Debts more expeditiously, than they could have done by continuing their usual Exports and exceeding Imports to and from Great Britain; so that we are convinced their Creditors could have had no reasonable Cause of Complaint. But we have now, my Lord, received Information, too well grounded it is to be feared, that these Resources are to be entirely shut up by an Act of the British Parliament cutting off all our Trade with all other Parts of the whole Universe, except the Islands of Great Britain, Ireland and the West Indies.

Money, my Lord, is not a plant of the native Growth of this Country. If the People are totally restrained by the Hand of Power from sending such Produce of their Estates as they choose and it is most for their general Interest to make, to foreign Markets, in which alone it will command a tolerable Price, they are precluded from the necessary proper Means of discharging their Debts. In such a Situation we presume it may be submitted to your Lordship's Judgment how far it would be consistent with Prudence and Justice or even ²⁶⁸ Humanity for us to interpose a legislative Authority in order to compel the Magistrates to open the Courts of civil Jurisdiction and thereby expose the People to cruel Exactions, we rather think it will be better to await the Time, when the returning Wisdom and Justice of Great Britain may put it in our Power to restore all Things to that Channel, in which they formerly flowed to her aggrandizement, the Prosperity and Happiness of the whole Empire.

We will, my Lord, proceed forthwith to consider farther the State of the Country, the Address of the Lords and Commons and his Majesty's Answer together with the Resolution of the House of Commons, which you have laid before us; this we will endeavour to do with that Calmness and Impartiality which their great Importance may require; and we sincerely as your Lordship conceives it that we may find the Propositions now made to us a benevolent Tender and auspicious Advance on the Part of the Parent State towards bringing to a fortunate and the most desirable Issue all those Disputes and Differns, which have so unhappily prevailed.

The said Address being read a second time,

Resolved, nemine contradicente, that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Address, to be presented to the Governor.

Resolved, that the said Address be presented to His Excellency by the whole House.
Ordered,

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 515.

Ordered, that the Gentlemen who drew up the said Addrefs, do wait upon the Governor, to know his pleasure when this Houfe shall attend his Excellency, to preſent their Addrefs.

269 *Resolved*, that the Governor's Speech be taken into confideration Tomorrow.

Resolved, that this Houfe will, Tomorrow, Refolve itſelf into a Committee of the whole Houfe to take into Confideration the Governor's Speech.

A *Petition* of *Abram Field* was preſented to the Houfe, and read; ſetting forth, that the Petitioner, a Soldier, enlisted under the Command of Colonel *John Field*, on the late *Indian* expedition, in the Battle on the *Great Kanhawa*, at *Point Pleasant*, received a Wound in the right Arm, which hath diſabled him to maintain himſelf, and a Wife, with three ſmall children, who before depended chiefly upon his labour for their ſupport, he having no Eſtate; and therefore praying the Houfe to take his caſe into confideration, and grant him ſuſh Relief as they ſhall think fit.

Ordered, that the ſaid Petition be referred to the Confideration of the Committee of public Claims, and that they do examine the matter thereof and report the fame with their Opinion thereupon to the Houfe.

A *Petition* of *John Martin*, of the County of *Caroline*, was preſented to the Houfe, and read; ſetting forth, that his negro Man Slave *Lemon*, who had run away from him laſt fall, being apprehended in the County of *Prince George*, ſet fire to the Gaol of that County, to which he was committed, with two others, in order to make his Eſcape, and perished in the Flames; and therefore praying the Houfe to make him ſuſh Allowance for the ſaid Slave as ſhall ſeem juſt.

268.1 *Ordered*, that the ſaid Petition be referred to the confideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the fame, with their Opinion thereupon to the Houfe.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to inspect the public Magazine in this City, and inquire into the Stores belonging to the fame and make report thereof to the Houfe.

And a Committee was appointed of *M^r Mercer*, *M^r Treafurer*, *M^r Jefferson*, *M^r Henry Lee*, *M^r Munford*, *M^r Dandridge*, *M^r Nelson*, *M^r Jones*, *M^r Cary*, *M^r Francis Lightfoot Lee*, *M^r Whitinge*, *M^r Charles Carter of Stafford*, *M^r Braxton*, *M^r Zane*, *M^r Page*, *M^r Carrington*, *M^r Digges*, *M^r Banifter*, *M^r Thomas Walker*, *M^r Travis*, and *M^r Norvell*. and they are to have the Power to ſend for Perfons, Papers and Records.

A *Petition*¹ of the Presbytery of *Hanover* in behalf of themſelves, and all the Presbyterians in *Virginia*, and of all Protestant diſſenters elsewhere, was preſented to the Houfe and read; ſetting forth, that in or about the Year 1738 many thouſand Presbyterian families relying upon the aſſurance of Government that they ſhould enjoy the free exercise of their Religion, removed from the Northern Colonies and ſettled in the Frontiers of this, forming a barrier for the lower parts thereof; and taking notice of a Bill for granting a toleration to his Maſtety's diſſenting protestant ſubjects, which in the Year 1772, was preſented to the Houfe, and afterwards ordered to be printed and pointing out feveral objections thereto; and praying that no Bill may paſs into a law but ſuſh as will ſecure to the Petitioners equal liberties and advantages with their fellow Subjects.

269.1 *Ordered*, that the ſaid Petition do lie upon the Table.

A *Petition* of *James Rofcow* was preſented to the Houfe, and read, ſetting forth, that he is feiſed in fee tail of feveral Tracts of Land, in the County of *Warwick*, and having no Slaves to work either, is diſirous to exchange two of them for other Lands, and Slaves, by which he may be enabled to procure a competent ſubſiſtence; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill to dock the intail of his tracts of Land, called *Stanley Hundred* and *Blunt Point*, and veſt the fame in *Carter Braxton*, Esquire, in fee ſimple, and, in lieu thereof and to the fame Uſes, to ſettle eight hundred Acres of Land in the County of *Amherſt*, with ten Negro Slaves, which the Petitioner had agreed to purchase of the ſaid *Carter Braxton*.

Ordered,

¹ *Miſcellaneous Papers*, May 5-26, 1774.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr *Mercer* do prepare, and bring in the same.

Mr *Mercer* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to enable Persons living in other Countries to dispose of their Estates in this Colony, with more Ease and Convenience, and for other purposes therein mentioned; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Resolved, that an Address be presented to his Excellency the Governor, desiring that he will be pleased to direct the proper Officer to lay before this House the amount of the Tonnage of one shilling and three pence Sterling, imposed on Ships and Vessels trading to this Colony, from the Year 1762.

Ordered, that the said Address be presented to his Excellency by Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Mercer*, and Mr *Henry Lee*.

A Petition of Mr *Alexander Purdie*, Printer, was presented to the House, and read; praying that he may be appointed Printer to the Public; and also

A Petition of *John Dixon* and *William Hunter*, Printers, for the same; and also

A Petition of *John Pinkney*, Printer, for the same,

Were severally presented to the House, and read.

Ordered, that the said Petitions do lie upon the Table.

Ordered, that the said Petitions be severally taken into consideration Tomorrow.

The Order of the Day being read, for the House to Resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider of the Journal of the proceedings of the Congress, held at *Philadelphia*, on the fifth day of *September*, 1774.

The House resolved itself into the said Committee.

Mr *Speaker* left the Chair.

Mr *Cary* took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr *Speaker* resumed the Chair.

Mr *Cary* reported from the Committee, that they had come to several Resolutions, which they had directed him to report, when the House will please to receive the same.

Ordered, that the Report be now received.

Mr *Cary* accordingly reported from the said Committee the Resolutions which they had directed him to report to the House; which he read in his Place, and afterwards delivered in at the Clerk's Table; where the same were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the House be moved to come to the following Resolution.

Resolved, that this House doth intirely and cordially approve the proceedings and Resolutions of the *American continental Congress*; and that they consider the whole Continent as under the highest obligations to that very respectable Body, for the Wisdom of their Counsels, and their unremitting endeavours to maintain and preserve inviolate the just Rights and liberties of his Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects in *America*.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the House be moved to come to the following Resolution:

Resolved, that the warmest Thanks of this House, and all the inhabitants of this Colony whom they represent, are particularly due, and that this just tribute of Applause be presented, to the Honourable *Peyton Randolph*, Esquire, *Richard Henry Lee*, *George Washington*, *Patrick Henry*, junior, *Richard Bland*, *Benjamin Harrison*, and *Edmund Pendleton*, Esquires, the worthy delegates deputed to represent this Colony in General Congress at *Philadelphia*, the fifth day of *September* last, for their cheerful undertaking, and faithful discharge, of the very important Trust reposed in them.

The said Resolutions being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Resolved, nemine contradicente, that this House doth intirely and cordially approve the proceedings and Resolutions of the *American Continental Congress*; and that they consider this whole Continent under the highest obligations to that very respectable

Body

Body, for the Wisdom of their Counsels, and the unremitting endeavours to maintain and preserve inviolate the just Rights and liberties of his Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects in *America*.

Resolved, nemine contradicente, that the warmest Thanks of his House, and all the inhabitants of this Colony, whom they represent, are particularly due; and that this just tribute of Applause be presented to the Honourable *Peyton Randolph*, Esquire, *Richard Henry Lee*, *George Washington*, *Patrick Henry*, junior, *Richard Bland*, *Benjamin Harrison*, and *Edmund Pendleton*, Esquires, the worthy Delegates deputed to represent this Colony in General Congress, at *Philadelphia*, the fifth day of *September* last, for their cheerful undertaking, and faithful discharge of, the very important Trust reposed in them.

The other *order* of the day being read;

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider of the proceedings of the Convention of Delegates for the Counties and Corporations in the Colony of *Virginia*, held at *Richmond Town*, in the County of *Henrico*, on the twentieth day of *March*, 1775.

M^r Speaker left the Chair.

M^r Cary took the Chair of the Committee.

M^r Speaker resumed the Chair.

M^r Cary reported from the Committee, that they had come to a Resolution, which they had directed him to report, when the House will please to receive the same.

Ordered, that the Report be now received.

²⁷³ *M^r Cary* accordingly reported from the said Committee the Resolution, which they had directed him to report to the House; which he read in his Place, and afterwards delivered in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *Viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the House be moved to come to the following Resolution:

Resolved, that this House doth intirely approve the proceedings and Resolutions¹ of the Convention of Delegates for the Counties and Corporations in the Colony of *Virginia*, held at *Richmond Town*, in the County of *Henrico*, on the twentieth day of *March*, 1775; and that it be recommended to all the good People of this Colony strictly to conform to, and observe, the same.

The said *Resolution* being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Resolved, nemine contradicente, that this House do intirely approve the proceedings and Resolutions of the Convention of Delegates for the Counties and Corporations in the Colony of *Virginia*, held at *Richmond Town*, in the County of *Henrico*, on the twentieth day of *March*, 1775; and that it be recommended to all the good People of this Colony strictly to conform to, and observe the same.

M^r Jones presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill² for altering and establishing the boundaries of the Counties of *Stafford* and *King George*, and the same was received, and read the first time.

²⁷⁴ *Resolved*, that the Bill be read a second Time.

M^r Mercer presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill for raising a Capital sum of forty thousand Pounds, Sterling, by Subscription, and establishing a Company for the opening and extending the Navigation of the River *Potomack*; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

M^r Mercer reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill to confirm the Titles to sundry Houses and lots of Land, whereof *Nathaniel Walthoe*, Esquire, died seized, to the purchasers thereof, was committed, that the Committee had examined the Allegations of the Bill, and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had directed him to report the Bill to the House, without any Amendment, and he delivered the Bill in at the Clerk's Table.

Ordered,

¹ See Printed Journal of Convention.

² Hening's, IX, p. 244.

Ordered, that the Bill be ingrossed.

M^r Aylett reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *John West*, Gentleman, is seised, and for settling other Lands and Slaves to the same Uses, was committed, that the Committee had examined the Allegations of the Bill, and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made an Amendment thereunto, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the report in his place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendment, in at the Clerk's Table, where the Amendment was twice read, and, upon the Question put thereupon, was agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Bill, with the Amendment be ingrossed.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, ten of the Clock.

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Tuesday, the 6th of June, 15 Geo. III. 1775.

A Petition of *Wilson Miles Cary* was presented to the House and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner is seised in fee-tail of three thousand eight hundred and forty five Acres of Land, in the County of *Gloucester*, which, for some years past, have yielded him little profits; and that it would be of considerable advantage to him and his Heir and family if he were allowed to sell the same and settle Lands, of greater value in lieu thereof; and therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for the purpose aforesaid.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill, pursuant to the prayer of the said Petition; and that M^r *Cary* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A Petition of *Edward Wood* of the County of *Prince Edward*, was presented to the House and read; setting forth, that a negro man slave of the Petitioner, apprehended in the County of *Chesterfield*, and there condemned and executed for a Capital crime, without the knowledge of his Master, was valued to the sum of Seventy five pounds only, the Court, before whom he was tried, not knowing him to be, as in truth he was, a Carpenter; and therefore praying the House to make him such farther allowance for his said Slave as they shall think just.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A Petition of *William Shepherd* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner in the engagement with the Indians, at *Point Pleasant*, on the tenth day of *October* last, was in the left Shoulder and Arm so that he is thereby rendered unable to earn a subsistence; and that from the twenty ninth of *January* till the twenty third of *April* last, he was obliged to have assistance of a Surgeon to cure the Wound, the expence of which he cannot discharge; and therefore praying such Relief as the House shall think proper.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

M^r *Bowdoin* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *Nathaniel Lyttleton Savage* is seised in Fee Tail, and for settling Slaves, in lieu thereof; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to M^r *Bowdoin*, M^r *Simpson*, M^r *Isaac Smith*, M^r *Digges*, and M^r *Nelson*.

A Petition of *John Caldwell* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner had erected a Mill, for the manufacturing of *linseed Oyl*, in order

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to dispose of that Article upon cheaper terms than it is usually retailed by the importers of it; but that he had not been able to compleat the work without mortgaging it, which the profits thereof would not be sufficient to redeem before his debtors would deprive him of it; and therefore praying the Assistance of the House.

A Motion was made, and the Question being put, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of a Committee.

It passed in the Negative.

A Message from the Governor by M^r Blair:

M^r Speaker,

I have received the Governor's commands to lay before this House a written Message from his Excellency, relative to the public Magazine, together with a paper therin referred to, and he presented the same at the same at the Bar; and the Message was read, and is as followeth, viz.

M^r Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses,

I have received a Paper without date or Signature, desiring I would direct the keeper of the Magazine, to give Access to some Persons, I know not whom, the Paper not saying who they, appointed by the House of Burgesses a Committee to examine into the State of the public Magazine. I send the said Paper, for the inspection of the House; and beg to be informed, whether the Persons, there alluded to, are authorized, as therein allowed, to desire

²⁷⁸ Access to the Magazine.

The paper referred to in the Message was also read, and is in the words following.

My Lord,

We being appointed by the House of Burgesses a Committee to examine into the state of the public Magazine, wait upon your Lordship to desire that you will be pleased to direct the Keeper thereof, to give us Access thereto, that we may be able to make a proper and full Report to the House.

Before this Resolution was known to the People we understand that sundry Persons unknown to us broke open the Magazine, and took out several Arms, but we assure your Lordship that so soon as this transaction was known to the House some of the Members interposed and prevailed on such as were to be found, to return what they had taken, and we have Hopes that the rest may be yet reclaimed which we shall not neglect our Endeavours to effect.

Ordered, that the Gentlemen who were appointed to inspect the public Magazine in this City, and inquire into the Stores belonging to the same, do prepare an Answer to the said Message; and that they withdraw immediately.

Ordered, that the said Message; and the Paper therein referred to, be referred to the said Committee.

M^r Mercer reported from the Committee appointed to prepare an Answer to the Governor's Message that the Committee had prepared an Address accordingly, which they had directed him to Report to the House; and he read the same in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, viz:

²⁷⁹ My Lord,

We his Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects the Burgesses of Virginia, having received your Lordship's written Message, respecting the proceedings of the Committee appointed to examine the Magazine have taken the same under our consideration. The House yesterday, as what they thought a proper foundation of Enquiry into the many Disturbances, which had arisen in the Country appointed, M^r Mercer, M^r Treasurer, M^r Jefferson, M^r Henry Lee, M^r Munford, M^r Dandridge, M^r Nelson, M^r Jones, M^r Cary, M^r Francis Lightfoot Lee, M^r Whiting, M^r Charles Carter, of Stafford, M^r Braxton, M^r Zane, M^r Page, M^r Carrington, M^r Digges, M^r Banister, M^r Thomas Walker, M^r Travis and M^r Norvell, twenty one of their Members: to enquire into the State of the public Magazine. Upon Receipt of your Excellency's

lency's Message, they examined the steps their Committee had taken and received the following Report. That the Committee having convened and judging it decent and proper, in the first place, waited on your Excellency, who by Law hath the Appointment of the Keeper of the Magazine, to request that you would be pleased to direct him to give them Access thereto. That finding some Irregularities had been committed, they also thought it prudent to mention them to your Excellency and inform you of their Endeavours to have the Arms, which had been taken out of the Magazine immediately restored. That to avoid Mistakes they judged it most proper to reduce the intended application to writing. That they then in a Body and the most respectful Manner waited on your Excellency and by their Chairman delivered their Request verbally, leaving the written Paper with your Lordship for your better Information. That your Excellency was pleased to receive it, and promised to furnish them with the Key of the Magazine, so soon as you could procure it. That the Committee not hearing from your Lordship, their Chairman was directed to wait on you this Morning and was referred for Answer to a Message you intended to send to the House.

We hope that your Lordship, upon revising these Proceedings will change your present Sentiments and think, with us, that there was no Impropriety in the Conduct of the Committee, Their Application to your Excellency, the House considers as proper and decent. The Gentlemen who composed the Committee must have been all known to you; and had you conceived the least Impropriety in their Procedure, it would have been kind in your Lordship to have pointed it out to them. At the time this Committee waited upon your Lordship, another Committee attended to inform you that this House had agreed to an Address in Answer to your Lordships Speech; this Message was delivered by one Committee, who we presume were not better known to your Lordship, than the Members of the other. Tho' there was not an express Order of the House that the Committee should apply to your Lordship for the purpose they did, yet we conceive that such application was necessarily incident to the due Execution of the general Order of the House to enquire into the state of the Magazine.

We feel very sensibly, my Lord, the weight of the Insinuation in your Message; but, willing upon all Occasions, and especially at this unhappy Juncture; to avoid every kind of Controversy, we shall direct that your Excellency be waited upon with the Order of yesterday before referred to, and should there any Doubts still remain, we will endeavour to remove them on their being pointed out to us.

The said Answer being read a second time;

Resolved, that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Answer.

Resolved, that the Gentlemen who prepared the said Answer do wait upon his Excellency with the same.

A Message from the Governor by M^r Blair:

M^r Speaker,

I have received the Governors commands to lay before this House a written message from his Excellency, relative to the Gunpowder which has been removed from the public Magazine by his Excellency's order; And he presented the same at the Barr; And the same was read, and is as followeth, viz.

M^r Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses,

The removing, by my Order, fifteen half Barrels of the King's Powder, received from the Rippon Man of War from the public Magazine, has I find given great uneasiness to the People. I was influenced in this by the best Motives; and as I have once ventured, and if occasion Offered should again venture my Life in the Service of this Country, I had hopes the most favourable Construction would have been put upon my Conduct. The Magazine was represented to me as a very insecure Depository and from Experience I find it so, all the Arms which have been kept there being now taken away, Arms not purchased at the expence of this Colony but sent here by His Majesty, from His Office of Ordnance, of which they bear the Mark; but in confidence that you are now met to remove every Grievance, and by your Wisdom to establish the public tranquility on a sure and firm Foundation, I do promise you that as soon as I see the Magazine in a proper State for securing the Powder

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and other public Stores, I will replace it, and at all times be ready most willingly to do everything my poor Abilities are capable of for the benefit of this Colony, in which I have lived till of late in the greatest happiness.

DUNMORE.

Resolved, that the said Message be taken into Consideration Tomorrow.

A *Petition* of sundry of the inhabitants of the County of *Isle of Wight*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that by virtue of the Act¹ for Ports, made in the third Year of the Reign of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, the Court of the said County had purchased fifty Acres of land, on the lower side of *Pagan Creek*, which was intended for a Town, and called *Patefield*; but that the place being inconvenient for a Town, all the inhabitants thereof, except one Family, deserted it, whereby many of the Lots remain undisposed of, and others are claimed by Persons who have no legal title to them; and therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill to vest so many of the said Lots, as have not been disposed of, and as the Claimants thereof cannot shew a legal title to, in Trustees, to be by them sold for the use of the County.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill, pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr *Wills* and Mr *Day* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A *Petition* of *Daniel Lawson* and *George Garland*, Inspectors of Tobacco at the public Warehouses, on *Totuskey Creek*, in the County of *Richmond*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that, notwithstanding they had been as careful as possible in securing the said Warehouses, according to Law, they had been so unfortunate as to loose one Hogshead of Tobacco out of the lower House, for which they had been obliged to pay ten pounds and thirteen shillings to Mr *Archibald Ritchie*, the proprietor thereof; and therefore praying the House to grant them such relief as they shall think just.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do consider the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A *Petition* of *James Murray* of the province of *Maryland*, and *Hannah* his Wife, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner in right of the Wife, are feised in feetail, under the Will of *Esther Savage*, deceased, of and in nine hundred and nine Acres of Land, in the Parish of *Hungars*, in the County of *Northampton*; and that it will be more advantageous to the Petitioners to sell the said Land, and lay out the Money arising from the sale in the purchase of other Lands, to be settled, in lieu thereof; and therefore praying, that leave be given to bring in a Bill, pursuant to the prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr *Bowdoin* do prepare, and bring in the same.

The *order* of the Day being read, for the House to consider of the Petition of *Alexander Purdie*, Printer, praying that he may be appointed Printer to the Public; And also the Petition of *John Dixon* and *William Hunter*, Printers, for the same; And also the Petition of *John Pinkney*, Printer, for the same;

The said *Petitions* were read.

Resolved, that this House will proceed to the Choice of a public Printer, first, by balloting in order to determine the number for each of the Petitioners, and then the Petition of him or them upon whom the least of the three numbers shall fall, being rejected, by dividing the House between the two other Petitioners, so that the choice may be by a majority of the whole House.

Ordered, that the Members of this House do immediately prepare Tickets, to be put into the Glasses, with the name of the Person to be the said Printer.

Ordered, that the Glasses be brought in.

The Glasses being accordingly brought in:

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¹ Hening's, III, p. 53.

The *Clerk* and *Serjeant at Arms* attending this House went with the same on each ²⁸⁶ side of the House, to receive the said Tickets.

And the *Members* having put in their Tickets, the Glasses were brought up to the Clerk's Table.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to examine the Tickets; and that they do report the numbers for the several Petitioners, as it shall appear to them, to the House.

And a Committee was appointed of M^r *Treasurer*, M^r *Cary*, M^r *Jefferson*, M^r *Mercer*, M^r *Digges*, M^r *Nelson*, and M^r *Jones*; and they are to withdraw immediately.

M^r *Treasurer* reported, from the Committee, that they had examined the Tickets accordingly, and had directed him to report the numbers for the several Petitioners as it appeared to them, to the House; and he read the Report in his Place; and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

For M ^r <i>Alexander Purdie</i>	44
For M ^r <i>John Pinkney</i>	34
For Mess ^{rs} <i>Dixon and Hunter</i>	12

And it appearing that the least of the three numbers falls upon the said *John Dixon* and *William Hunter*;

Resolved, that the Petition of the said *John Dixon* and *William Hunter* be rejected.

Then M^r *Speaker* divided the House between the said *Alexander Purdie* and *John Pinkney*, by directing the Members, who were the said *Alexander Purdie*, to be on the right side of the House, and the Members, for the said *John Pinkney*, to be on the other side of the House.

The House divided accordingly.

Teller for <i>Alexander Purdie</i> , M ^r <i>Bowdoin</i>	47
Teller for <i>John Pinkney</i> , M ^r <i>Digges</i>	43

Resolved, that the said *Alexander Purdie* be appointed Printer to the Public.

The other *order* of the day being read;

Resolved, that this House will, Tomorrow, Resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into Consideration the Governor's speech.

A *Petition* of several Persons of the Parish of *Stratton-Major*, in the County of *King and Queen*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Vestry of the said Parish have given liberty to the Minister thereof to be absent, for eighteen Months, and have, notwithstanding, levied for him the usual Salary; and that the said Vestry, having employed a person to do some Work for the said Parish, paid him for the same, although the Work was not done; and therefore praying, that the said Vestry may be dissolved.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Committee for Religion; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

An ingrossed *Bill*, to dock the intail of certain Lands, whereof *John West*, Gentleman, is seised, and for settling other Lands and Slaves, to the same Uses, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the title be, *An Act¹ to dock the intail of certain Lands, whereof John West, Gentleman is seised, and for settling other Lands and Slaves to the same Uses*.

Ordered, that M^r *Aylett* do carry the Bill to the Council and desire their Concurrence. M^r *Cary* presented to the House, according to order, a Bill to vest certain intailed Lands therein mentioned, in *Wilson Miles Cary*, Esquire, in fee simple, and to settle other Lands, in lieu thereof; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered,

¹ Not recorded as a law.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a secon^d time.

The Bill was accordingly read a secon^d time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to Mr Cary, Mr Whitinge, Mr Burwell, Mr King, Mr Westwood, Mr Digges, and Mr Nelson.

A Petition of the Vestry of the Parish of Botetourt was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioners had purchased a Tract of Land, for a Glebe, but, before they proceeded to erect the necessary buildings thereon, a more convenient Tract of Land, with improvements, belonging to *Thomas Madison*; was offered for sale, and they have agreed to purchase it, and to dispose of the other, judging it most for the interest of the Parish so to do; and therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill, for carrying the said Agreements into Execution.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Religion; and that they do examine the matter thereof and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A Petition of several Persons, of the Parish of *Botetourt*, whose Names are thereunto 288 subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Vestry of the said Parish, having purchased five hundred and thirty Acres of Land, for a Glebe, which cost the Parish three hundred Pounds, afterwards sold the same, without any Authority, and purchased five hundred Acres of Land for a Glebe, with a Water Grift Mill, and other valuable improvements thereon, for seven hundred Pounds; and that the said Vestry have assessed upon the Parishioners other illegal expences; and therefore praying Redrefs, and that the said Vestry may be dissolved.

A Petition of *John May*, Clerk of the Court of the County of *Botetourt*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that in the Months of *April* and *May*, 1774, the said Court, proceeding in their ordinary Busines, had awarded several Judgments, upon which; with the Costs taxed Executions had issued, neither the Justices nor the Clerk knowing the fee Bill to be expired; and that some of the Executions not being returned, others had issued in a few Cafes, where it was necessary to secure the debts, omitting the Costs accrued in those two Months, by which the Creditors have suffered considerable losses; and further setting forth, that it is very difficult for the Officers to collect their Fees from the Parties, who do not reside in the same Counties; and therefore praying the House to take these matters into Consideration, and make such Law as shall be found expedient, and particularly provide for the payment of Fees within the County, where the suit shall be prosecuted.

A Motion was made, and the Question being put, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of a Committee.

289 It passed in the Negative.

A Petition of *Hugh Walker* was presented to the House, and Read; setting forth, that the Petitioner for sometime past had kept the Ferry from *Urbanna*, over *Rappahanock* River, to a place, called *Arm's Creek*, and had, at considerable expence, provided good sailing and other Boats, for the Accomodation and conveyance of Passengers; that there is another Ferry, from the North side of the said River, at a flatty and inconvenient landing place, about half a Mile lower than *Arm's Creek*, that at present the profits of the Ferry, kept by the Petitioner, are not sufficient to defray the necessary expences of it; and that he hath purchased a small piece of Land, at *Arm's Creek*, to and from which he proposes to keep the said Ferry; and therefore praying, that no other Ferry, besides that kept by the Petitioner, may be from *Urbanna*, over *Rappahanock*, to the County of *Lancaster*.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A Petition of *John Black* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner, in *June*, 1764, entered into the service of this Colony, as a Soldier in the Militia, and was discharged in *September* following, but never received any satisfaction, either through the neglect of the Officer under whom he served, or through his own

ignorance

ignorance of the proper method of application for it; and therefore praying the House to ²⁹⁰ take his case into consideration, and make him such allowance as they shall think reasonable.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Ordered, that Mr Lyne be added to the Committee for Religion.

A Message from the Council by Mr Blair:

Mr Speaker,

The Council have directed me to lay before this House a Copy of their proceedings, upon a Report, which had prevailed, relative to the Marines and Sailors belonging to his Majesty's Ship the Fowey; and he prefented the same at the bar.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

The said copy of the Council's proceedings was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*:

It having been reported, that the Marines and Sailors, belonging to his Majesty's Ship the Fowey, were expected to be at the Palace this day, by the Governor's order, and that the People of the City of Williamsburg, and Counties adjoining, were greatly alarmed thereat, and were determined to attack the said Marines and Sailors, if they should come; it was ordered, that Richard Corbin and Robert Carter, Esquires, wait on his Excellency, in the name of the Council, to desire he would be pleased to give Orders for stopping them, and thereby prevent the great Calamity which was otherwise likely to ensue. Richard Corbin ²⁹¹ Esquire, reported, that the Gentlemen appointed had, according to order, waited on the Governor, who appeared to be astonished at the Report which had prevailed, assured them, that he had given no Orders for the Marines or Sailors, nor did he know of its being intended by anybody to send them to the Palace; and that, in Case of any such design, he would send to prevent it.

Ordered, that the thanks of this House be given to the Council, for laying a Copy of their proceedings before the House, upon the Report, relative to the Marines and Sailors, belonging to his Mafesty's Ship the *Fowey*; and that Mr Cary and Mr Charles Carter, of *Lancaster*, do acquaint the Council therewith.

Mr Mercer presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *James Roscow* is seised, and for other purposes therein mentioned; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a fecond time.

Ordered, that Captain *James Innes*, of the Voluntier Company of the City of *Williamsburg*, be desired to employ any number of Men, that he shall think sufficient, to guard the public Magazine in this City, until such time as the House shall direct the Guard to be discontinued; and that Mr *Braxton* do acquaint him therewith.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, ten of the Clock.

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Wednesday, the 7th of June, 15 Geo III. 1775.

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SEVERAL other Members, having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and subscribed the Test, took their places in the House.

Ordered, that Mr *Lemuel Riddick* be added to the Committee of Privileges and Elections, to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, and to the Committee of Trade.

Ordered, that Mr *Willis Riddick* be added to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances and to the Committee of Public Claims.

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The *order* of the Day being read, for taking into Consideration the Governor's written Message relative to the Gun-Powder, which has been removed from the public Magazine, by his Excellencys Order.

The said *Message* was again read.

Resolved, that an Addrefs be prefent to his Excellency the Governor, to exprefs to his Lordship our Thanks for his kind tender of fervices, in behalf of this Colony, and for reforing the public tranquility on a fure and firm foundation; to affure his Lordship that we have the highest Senfe of his Services on the late *Indian* Expedition, and fincereley lament that any event should fufpend the happinefs which his Lordship hath enjoyed among us; that, wishing a reforation of Peace and harmony, we had directed an enquiry into the Caufes of the late great uneafinefs given to the People, which we fhall proceed on with that attention recommended by his Lordship, and apply, on our parts, remedies the beft our Abilities can fugest.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to draw up an Addrefs, to be prefent to the Governor upon the faid Refolution.

²⁰⁴ And a *Committee* was appointed of M^r *Mercer*, M^r *Treasurer*, M^r *Cary*, M^r *Dandridge* M^r *Henry Lee* and M^r *Munford*.

Ordered, that the Governor's *Message* be referred to the faid Committee.

Ordered, that the other *order* of the Day, for the Houfe to refolve itfelf into a Committee of the whole Houfe, to take into Consideration the Governor's Speech, be now read.

And the faid *Order* being read accordingly.

Ordered, that the Governor's Speech, and the joint Addrefs of the Lords and Commons, on the feventh of *February* laft, and his Majefty's Anfwer, and also the Refolution of the Houfe of Commons, of the twenty feventh of the fame Month, Referred to in the faid Speech, which, upon *Friday* laft, were ordered to lie on the Table, be referred to the faid Committee.

Then the Houfe refolved itfelf into the faid Committee.

M^r *Speaker* left the Chair.

M^r *Cary* took the Chair of the Committee.

M^r *Speaker* refumed the Chair.

M^r *Cary* reported from the Committee, that they had made fome progres in the matter to them referred; and that he was directed by the Committee to move, that they may have leave to fit again.

Resolved, that the Houfe will, Tomorrow, Refolve itfelf into a Committee of the whole Houfe, to take into their further Consideration the Governor's Speech.

²⁹⁵ M^r *Jones* reported from the Committee for Courts of Juftice, who were appointed to inquire what laws are expired fince the laft Seffion; or will expire with the end of this Seffion or are near expiring, and to report their opinion to the Houfe, which of them are fit to be revived, or continued, that the Committee had inquired accordingly, and have come to feveral Refolutions, which they had directed him to report to the Houfe; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table, where the Refolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the A&t of Afsembly, made in the tenth Year of his preſent Majefty's Reign, intituled, "An A&t¹ for giving a Salary to the Speaker of the Houfe of Burgeſſes" which was revived by an other A&t made in the twelfth Year of the fame Reign and being fo revived expired at the meeting of this preſent Afsembly, ought to be again revived.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the A&t of Afsembly made in the seventh Year of his preſent Majefty's Reign intituled "An A&t² for appointing a Treasurer" which was continued by two other A&ts made in the tenth and twelfth Years of his faid Majefty's Reign, and which will expire with the End of this preſent Seffion of Afsembly, ought to be further continued.

Resolved,

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 210.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 211.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee that the Act of Assembly, made in the tenth Year of his present Majesty's Reign, intituled "An Act¹ to prevent the exorbitant Exactions of the Collectors of the County and Parish Levies" which will expire with the End of this present Session of Assembly, ought to be continued.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Act of Assembly made in the tenth Year of his present Majesty's Reign, intituled "An Act² to make Provision for the support and Maintenance of Ideots, Lunatics and other Persons of unsound Minds" which will expire with the End of this present Session of Assembly ought to be continued. 296

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Act of Assembly made in the thirtieth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King *George* the second intituled "An Act³ for the better regulating and disciplining the Militia" which hath been continued and amended by several other Acts and which expired on the twentieth Day of *July* 1773, ought to be revived.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee that the Act of Assembly, made in the eleventh Year of his present Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Act⁴ for the Relief of the sufferers by the loss of Tobacco damaged or burnt in several Warehouses," which will expire on the twenty fifth Day of *October* 1775, ought to be continued.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Act of Assembly, made in the fifth Year of his present Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Act⁵ for amending the Staple of Tobacco, and preventing Frauds in his Majesty's Customs," which hath been continued, and amended by several other Acts and which will expire on the first Day of *October* 1775, ought not to be further continued.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Act of Assembly, made in the thirtieth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King *George*, the Second, intituled, "An Act⁶ for reducing the several Acts of Assembly for making Provision against Invasions, and Insurrections into one Act," which hath been continued by several Acts, and which will expire on the eighth Day of *June* 1775, ought to be further continued.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Act of Assembly, made in the nineteenth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty, King *George*, the second, intituled, "An Act⁷ for the better regulating and collecting certain Officers Fees, and for other purposes therein mentioned," which hath been continued and amended by several other Acts, and which expired on the twelfth Day of *April* 1774, ought not to be revived. 297

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Act of Assembly, made in the third Year of his present Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Act⁸ for the more effectual keeping the public Roads, and Bridges in Repair," which hath been continued, amended, and revived by two several Acts, and which will expire with the end of this present Session of Assembly, ought to be further continued.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Act of Assembly made in the twelfth Year of his present Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Act⁹ for keeping in Repair several Roads, and for other Purposes, therein mentioned" which expired on the eleventh Day of *April* 1774, ought not to be revived.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that so much of the Act of Assembly, made in the twelfth Year of his present Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Act for keeping in Repair several Roads, and for other purposes, therein mentioned," which expired on the eleventh Day of *April* 1774, ought not to be revived.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that so much of the Act of Assembly, made in the twelfth Year of his present Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Act¹⁰ to amend an Act, intituled an Act for the better preservation of the breed of Deer, and preventing unlawful Hunting," as subjects to a Penalty any Person, who shall hunt, shoot, or kill, in any manner, any wild Deer, until the first Day of *August*, which shall be in the Year of our Lord 1776, ought not to be continued. 298

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Act of Assembly made in the twenty fifth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King *George* the second, intituled

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 381.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 378.

³ *Ibid.*, VII, p. 93.

⁴ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 493.

⁵ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 69.

⁶ *Ibid.*, VII, p. 106.

⁷ *Ibid.*, VII, p. 244.

⁸ *Ibid.*, VII, p. 577.

⁹ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 548.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 591.

tituled "An Act¹ for reviving the duty upon Slaves, to be paid by the Buyers, for the term therein mentioned," and one other Act of Assembly, made in the thirty third Year of his said Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Act² to oblige Persons, bringing Slaves into this Colony from Maryland, Carolina, and the West Indies, for their own Use, to pay a Duty, which have been continued by several other Acts, and which expired on the twentieth Day of April 1773, ought to be revived.

The six first Resolutions of the Committee, being severally read a second time were upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

The seventh Resolution of the Committee, being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, postponed.

The eighth Resolution of the Committee, being read a second time, was upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

The ninth Resolution of the Committee, being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, postponed.

The subsequent Resolutions of the Committee, being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that a Bill or Bills be brought in pursuant to the *first, second, third, fourth, fifth, eighth, tenth, and thirteenth* Resolutions of the said Committee; and that the said Committee do prepare and bring in the same.

²⁹⁹ A Petition of James Henry was presented to the House, and read, the Petitioner, Mr Isaac Smith, Mr Southey Simpson, and others offered themselves as Candidates for the County of Accomack, to serve in General Assembly; that at the close of the Poll, the Sheriff returned the said Southey Simpson and Isaac Smith as duly elected Burgesses, although the Petitioner believes, and hopes he shall be able to prove, that he had more good Votes at the said Election than the said Isaac Smith and ought to have been returned duly elected for the said County; and therefore praying that the Premises may be taken into the Consideration of this Honourable House and that he may have such Relief as the justness of his Case shall appear to merit.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Privileges and Elections; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill, to amend the Act, intituled *An Act³ for better securing the payment of Levies, and restraint of Vagrants, and for making provision for the poor*; and that Mr Carrington, and Mr Terry, do prepare and bring in the same.

A Message from the Governor by Mr Blair:

Mr Speaker

I am commanded by the Governor, to lay before this House his Excellency's written Message, in answer to your Address of this day; and he presented the same at the Bar; and the said Message was read, and is as followeth, viz:

³⁰⁰ Mr Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses,

In answer to your Address of this day, I assure the House, that my Message, to which it alluded, for proper information only, which I thought necessary, because, as I would by no means infringe any Rule of, or omit any Ceremony due to your House, I could not but expect to be treated with the same attention: and to give you a proof of my desire, to avoid every kind of controversy, I have ordered the Key of the Magazine to be delivered to the Committee, appointed by your Order of Monday.

DUNMORE.

A Petition of several Persons, inhabitants of the County of Amherst, whose names are thereunto subscribed, praying that a public ferry¹ may be established from the land

¹ Hening's, VI, p. 217.

² Ibid. VII., p. 338.

³ Ibid., IX, p. 216.

⁴ Ibid., IX, p. 233.

land of *Henry Trent*, in the County of *Amherst*, on the North side, to the land of *Nicholas Davies*, in the County of *Bedford*, on the other side, of the *Fluvanna* River, and also

A *Petition* of several Persons, inhabitants of the said County of *Amherst*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, in opposition to the said Petition for a Ferry.

Were severally presented to the House, and read.

Ordered, that the said Petitions be severally referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A *Petition* of several Persons of the County of *Culpeper*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; praying that a public ferry may be established over the River *Rapidanne*, at a place called *Eley's Ford*, from the Land of *Bowles Armistead*, Gentleman, in the County of *Culpeper*, to the land of *Alexander Spotswood*, Gentleman, in the County of *Spotsylvania*.³⁰¹

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A *Petition* of *Thomas Wills* and *Anne his Wife* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioners are seized in Fee Tail of three hundred and fifty Acres of land, or thereabouts, in the County of *Warwick*, and that it will be greatly for their advantage to sell the same, and settle other lands and Slaves in lieu thereof; and therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for that purpose.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the prayer of the said Petition; and that *M^r Munford* do prepare, and bring in the same.

M^r Treasurer reported to the House, that the Governor, having been waited on, pursuant to the order of *Monday* last, to know his pleasure, when he would be attended by this House, had been pleased to appoint to be attended tomorrow, at one of the Clock in the afternoon, in the Council Chamber.

M^r Treasurer reported to the House, that their Address to the Governor of *Monday* last, desiring that he will be pleased to direct the proper Officer to lay before this House the amount of the Tonnage of one shilling and threepence, Sterling, imposed on Ships and Vessels trading to this Colony, from the Year 1762, had been presented to his Excellency and that he had directed him to acquaint the House, that he would send an Answer thereto by a Messenger.³⁰²

M^r Carrington presented to the House, according to order, a Bill to amend the Act, intituled *An Act for better securing the payment of Levies, and restraint of Vagrants, and for making Provision for the Poor*; and the same was received and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

A Bill for raising a Capital sum of forty thousand Pounds Sterling, by subscription, and establishing a Company for opening and extending the navigation of the River *Potowmack*, was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to *M^r Mercer, M^r Broadwater, M^r Zane, M^r Peyton, M^r Clapham, M^r Henry Lee, and M^r Nevill.*

A *Petition* of *William Fleming*, of the County of *Botetourt*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that in the Year 1755, the Petitioner entered into the Service of this Colony, and continued therein until the end of the War, in 1763, when the *Virginia* Regiment was disbanded, after which he supported himself and his Family, by the Practice of Surgery, until he was called out on duty the last year, under the command of Colonel *Andrew Lewis*, lieutenant of the said County, and marched with the Troops there raised against the *Indian* Enemy on the frontiers where in an engagement, the tenth day of *October*, the Petitioner was wounded in the Breast and left Arm, so that he is unable to exercise his profession of a Surgeon; and therefore praying the House to take his Case into Consideration, and grant him relief.

Ordered,

303 Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

M^r *Digges* reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill, to dock the intail of four hundred Acres of land, whereof *Edward Harwood* and *Elizabeth* his Wife are seised, and settling other lands and Slaves in lieu thereof, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was committed, that the Committee had examined the Alligations of the Bill and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had directed him to report the Bill to the House, without any Amendment; and he delivered the Bill in at the Clerk's Table.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, ten of the Clock.

Thursday, the 8th of June. 15 Geo. III. 1775.

SEVERAL other Members, having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and subscribed the Test, took their places in the House.

Ordered, that M^r *Wood* be added to the Committee for Religion, and to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

Ordered, that M^r *Scott* be added to the Committee of public Claims.

A Bill to enable Persons living in other Countries to dispose of their Estates in this Colony, with more ease and convenience, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

304 An engrossed Bill to confirm the titles to sundry Houses and lots of Land, whereof *Nathaniel Walthoe*, Esquire, died seised, to the purchasers thereof, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the title be, *An Act¹ to confirm the titles to sundry Houses and lots of land, whereof Nathaniel Walthoe, Esquire, died seised, to the purchasers thereof.*

Ordered, that M^r *Mercer* to carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

M^r *Jones* presented to the House, according to order, a Bill to revive the Act, intituled *An Act² for giving a Salary to the Speaker of the House of Burgesses*; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

M^r *Jones* presented to the House according to order, a Bill for further continuing an Act intituled *An Act³ for appointing a Treasurer*; and the same was received, and read the first time.

A Bill to amend the Act, intituled *An Act⁴ for better securing the payment of levies, and restraint of Vagrants, and for making Provision for the Poor*, was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to a committee of the whole House.

Resolved, that this House will, Tomorrow resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the said Bill.

A Bill for altering and establishing the boundaries of the Counties of *Stafford* and *King George*, was read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

305 A Bill to dock the intail of certain lands whereof *James Roscow* is seised, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was read a second time.

Resolved,

¹ Not recorded as a law. ² Hening's, IX, p. 213. ³ *Ibid.*, VII, p. 33. ⁴ *Ibid.*, IX, p. 216.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to M^r *Mercer*, M^r *Harwood*, M^r *Langhorne*, M^r *Digges*, M^r *Nelson*, M^r *Attorney General*, M^r *Jones*, M^r *Jefferson*, M^r *Dandridge*, M^r *Banister*, M^r *Munford*, and M^r *Carrington*.

M^r *Cary* reported from the Committee of public Claims, to whom the Petition of *Stephen Ham* was referred, that the committee had examined the matter of the said Petition, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolution of the Committee was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the said Petition is reasonable; and that the Petitioner ought to be allowed the sum of fifty Pounds for the slave *Judy* in his said Petition mentioned.

The said *Resolution*, being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Resolved, that the sum of fifty pounds be paid to *Stephen Ham*, for his negro Woman slave *Judy* who was committed to Gaol for murder; and died before the time appointed for her trial.

Ordered, that M^r *Cary* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

M^r *Cary* reported from the Committee of public Claims, to whom the Petition of *Abram Field*, a Soldier wounded in the late engagement with the *Indians*, was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petition, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolution of the Committee was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

304

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the said Petition is reasonable; and that the Petitioner ought to be allowed the sum of twenty pounds for his present relief, and the further sum of ten pounds per Annum, during his life as a recompence for the wound he received in the defense of this Colony.

The said *Resolution*, being read a second time, was upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Resolved, that the sum of twenty pounds be paid to *Abram Field*, a soldier wounded in the late *Indian* expedition, and that the sum of ten pounds, per Annum, be paid to him, during his life.

Ordered, that M^r *Cary* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

The *Order* of the day being read;

Resolved, that this House will, Tomorrow, take into their further consideration the Governor's Speech.

M^r *Cary* reported from the Committee of public Claims, to whom the Petition of *John McKenny*, a soldier wounded in the late *Indian* expedition was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petition, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House, and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolution of the Committee was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee that the said Petition is reasonable, and that the Petitioner ought to be allowed the sum of twenty five Pounds for his present Relief, and the further sum of ten pounds, per Annum, during his Life, as a recompence for the Wounds he received in the defence of this Colony.

307

The said *Resolution*, being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Resolved, that the sum of twenty five Pounds be paid to *John McKenny*, a soldier wounded in the late *Indian* expedition; and that the sum of ten pounds, per Annum, be paid to him, during his life.

Ordered,

Ordered, that M^r *Cary* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

M^r *Cary* reported from the Committee of public Claims, to whom the Petition of *Cecelia Collier*, Executrix of the last Will and Testament of *John Collier*, deceased, praying to be relieved against a bond entered into by her Testator, was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petition, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolution of the Committee was read, and is as followeth, *viz*:

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the said Petition be rejected.

The said *Resolution*, being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

M^r *Cary* reported from the Committee of public Claims, to whom the Petition of *William Shepherd*, a soldier wounded in the late *Indian* expedition, was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petition, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolution of the Committee was read, and is as followeth, *viz*:

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the said Petition is reasonable; and that the Petitioner ought to be allowed the sum of ten pounds, for his present Relief, and the sum of seven pounds ten shillings, during his life, as a recompence for the wounds he received in the defence of this Colony; and also that the sum of sixteen pounds fourteen shillings and two pence be paid to him for the use of *William Smith*, the Surgeon, for attending dressing, and furnishing Medicines, to effect the cure of the said Petitioner.

The said *Resolution*, being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Resolved, that the sum of ten Pounds be paid to *William Shepherd*, a Soldier, wounded in the late *Indian* expedition; and that the sum of seven pounds and ten shillings, per annum, be paid to him, during his life; and also, that the sum of sixteen pounds fourteen shillings and two pence be paid to him, for the use of *William Smith*, the Surgeon for curing his Wounds.

Ordered, that M^r *Cary* do carry the Resolution to the Council and desire their Concurrence.

M^r *Digges* reported from the Committee of Privileges and Elections, that the Committee had, according to order examined the Returns of several writs for electing Burgesses to serve in this present General Assembly and compared the same with the form prescribed by Law, and had come to several Resolutions, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz*.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Returns of the several Writs for electing Burgesses to serve in this present General Assembly for the Counties of *Albemarle, Amherst, Bedford, Buckingham, Caroline, Charlotte, Charles City, Chesterfield, Culpeper, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fincastle, Halifax, Henrico, King George, Lancaster, Louisa, New Kent, Norfolk, Northampton, Orange, Prince Edward, Prince George, Prince William, Richmond, Southampton, Spotsylvania, Westmoreland, and York*, for the City of *Williamsburg* and for the Borough of *Norfolk*, are made in the form prescribed by law.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee that the returns of the several Writs for electing Burgesses to serve in this present General Assembly, for the Counties of *Augusta, Accomack, Amelia, Berkeley, Botetourt, Brunswick, Dunmore, Elizabeth City, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Gloucester, Goochland, Hanover, Hampshire, James City, Isle of Wight, King and Queen, King William, Loudoun, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg*,

lenburg, Middlesex, Northumberland, Princess Anne, Pittsylvania, Stafford, Surry, Sussex, and Warwick, for the College of William and Mary, and for James Town, are not made in the form prescribed by law.

The said *Resolutions*, being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Returns of the several Writs for electing Burgeesses to serve in this present General Assembly for the Counties in the last Resolution mentioned, be amended by the Clerk at the Table; and the said returns were amended by the Clerk ³¹⁰ accordingly.

M^r Wills presented to the House, according to order, a *Bill* for vesting certain Lotts and Streets, in the Town of Patesfield, in Trustees, and for other purposes therein mentioned; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

A Message from the Council by M^r Blair:

M^r Speaker,

I am commanded by the Council to deliver to your house a written message from his Excellency, the Governor, which was by him communicated to the Council, to be by them sent to you; and he presented the same at the bar.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

The written Message from his Excellency was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

M^r Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Burgeesses,

Being now fully persuaded that my Person, and those of my Family likewise, are in constant danger of falling sacrifices to the blind and unmeasurable fury which has so unaccountably seised upon the minds and understanding of great numbers of People, and apprehending that at length some of them may work themselves up to that pitch of daringness and atrociousness as to fall upon me, in the defenceless state in which they know I am in the City of Williamsburg, and perpetrate Acts that would plunge this country into the most horrid calamities, and render the breach with the mother Country irreparable, I have thought it prudent for myself, and serviceable for the Country, that I remove to a place of safety; conformable to which, I have fixed my residence, for the present on board his Majesty's Ship the Fowey, lying at York. It is not my intention to give the least interruption to the fitting of the Assembly, but I hope they will proceed in the great business which they have before them with diligence and effect. I shall take care to make the access to me so easy, and safe, that the necessary communication between me and the House may be attended with the least inconvenience possible; and I thought it would be more agreeable to the House to send to me, from time to time, some of their members, as occasion shall require, than to be put all to the trouble of moving to be near me. ³¹¹

I hope the House will see my proceedings on this occasion as they were really meant, and I beg them to be assured that I shall now be ready to attend to all the duties of my office as I was before; and that I am perfectly disposed to contribute all in my power, if opportunity be given me to restore that harmony, the interruption of which is likely to cost so dear, to the repose, as well as to the comfort of every individual.

DUNMORE.

Ordered, that the said Message be referred to a Committee of the whole House.

Resolved, that this House will now resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider of the said Message.

The House accordingly resolved itself into the said Committee.

M^r Speaker left the Chair:

M^r Cary took the Chair of the Committee.

M^r Speaker resumed the Chair.

M^r

³¹² Mr *Cary* reported from the Committee, that they had come to a Resolution, which they had directed him to report to the House, when the House will be pleased to receive the same.

Ordered, that the Report be now received.

Mr *Cary* accordingly reported the Resolution, which the Committee had directed him to report to the House; which he read in his Place, and afterwards delivered in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that is the Opinion of this Committee, that an Address be presented to his Excellency, the Governor, in answer to his written message of this day, to represent to his Lordship the probable tendency of his removal from the Palace, and the propriety of his return; to assure his Excellency, that we view with Horror every design that may be meditated against the Persons of his Lordship, his very amiable Lady, or Family; promising our cheerful concurrence in any proper measure for their future safety.

The said *Resolution*, being read a second time, was, upon the Question being put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to draw up an address, to be presented to the Governor upon the said *Resolution*.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Mercer*, Mr *Jones*, Mr *Munford*, Mr *Henry Lee*, Mr *Dandridge*, Mr *Banister*, and Mr *Francis Lightfoot Lee*; and they are to withdraw immediately.

Ordered, that the said written Message be referred to the said Committee.

Mr *Treasurer* reported from the Committee, that they had drawn up an Address accordingly, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the same in his place and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

³¹³ My Lord,

We, his Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects the Burgesses of Virginia assure your Excellency, that it is with the greatest concern we find, by your Message to them, that your Lordship entertains any suspicions of the personal security of yourself or family, as we can by no means suppose any of his Majesty's subjects in this Colony would meditate a crime so horrid and atrocious as you seem to apprehend. We are fearful the step your Lordship hath taken, in removing from the seat of government, may conduce to a continuance of that great uneasiness which hath of late so unhappily prevailed in this Country. We cannot but express our concern that your Lordship did not think proper to communicate the ground of your uneasiness to us, as, from our zeal and attachment to the preservation of order and good government, we should have judged it our indispensable duty to have endeavoured to remove every cause of disquietude. In proof of the great respect we shall ever pay to the representative of our most gracious sovereign, and to remove, to the utmost of our power your Lordship's apprehensions, we assure your Lordship that we will cheerfully concur in any measure that may be proposed proper to the security of yourself and family. It is with much anxiety we consider the very disagreeable situation of your Lordship's most amiable Lady and Family, and should think ourselves happy in being able to restore their perfect tranquility, by removing all their fears. We cannot, my Lord, but approve your intention of not giving the least interruption to the important affairs on which we are now assembled, and it is with much pleasure we receive your Lordship's assurance of your disposition to establish that harmony so essential to the repose and comfort of every individual; but we must beg leave to observe to your Lordship how impracticable it will be to carry on the business of this Session with any tolerable degree of propriety, or with that despatch the advanced season of the year requires, whilst your Lordship is so far removed from us, and so inconveniently situated. We therefore earnestly entreat your Lordship that you will be pleased to return, with your Lady and family, to the Palace; which we are persuaded will give the greatest satisfaction, and be the most likely means of quieting the minds of the People.

The

The said *Address*, being read a second time;

Resolved, that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said *Address*, to be presented to the Governor.

Ordered, that the Gentlemen, who drew up the said *Address*, do go to the Council, and acquaint them that this House have agreed to an *Address* to the Governor, to which they desire the concurrence of the Council.

A *Message* from the Council by Mr *Blair*:

Mr *Speaker*.

The Council have agreed to join with this House in their Address to the Governor; and, in Consequence thereof, have made the necessary Amendments, and have appointed two of their Members, to join with such of the Members of this House as may be appointed, to present the same to his Excellency.

Ordered, that the said *Address* be presented to his Excellency by Mr *Cary*, Mr *Wood*, Mr *Attorney General*, and Mr *Braxton*.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, ten of the Clock.

Friday, the 9th of June, 15 Geo. III. 1775.

315

A Petition of James *Arbuckle*, sheriff of the County of *Accomack*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner, in execution of a sentence of the Court of that County, by which *Daniel*, a negro man slave, the property of *William Ward*, was condemned to the punishment of castration for attempting to ravish a white Woman, had been obliged to incur considerable expence to a Surgeon for performing the operation, and healing the wound; and therefore praying, that the Petitioner may be reimbursed the said expence by the Public.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Mr *Bowdoin* reported from the Committee, to whom the *Bill* to dock the entail of certain Lands, whereof *Nathaniel Lyttleton Savage* is seised in fee tail, and for settling Slaves in lieu thereof, was committed, that the Committee had examined the Allegations of the *Bill*, and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had directed him to report the *Bill* to the House without any Amendment; and he delivered the *Bill* in at the Clerk's Table.

Ordered, that the *Bill* be engrossed.

A Petition of Robert *Matthews* and Anne his Wife was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioners are seised in fee tail of and in three hundred and fifty Acres of Land, in the Parish of *Bruton*, and County of *York*; and that it will be for the advantage of the Petitioners to sell the same, and to settle other Lands, in lieu thereof; and therefore praying that leave may be given to bring in a *Bill* for that purpose.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a *Bill*, pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr *Digges* do prepare, and bring in the same.

316

Mr *Digges* reported from the Committee of Privileges and Elections, that the Committee had, according to order, examined the Return of the Writ for electing Burgeesses to serve in this present General Assembly, for the County of *Nansemond*, and compared the same with the form prescribed by Law, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolution of the Committee was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the said Return is not made in the form prescribed by law.

The

* Not recorded as a law.

The said *Resolution*, being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Serjeant at Arms attending this House do take *Kinchin Godwin*, Gentleman, Sheriff of the County of *Nansemond*, in Custody, in order to amend his return of the Writ for electing Burgesse to serve in this present General Assembly, for the said County.

Another Member, having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and subscribed the Test, took his place in the House.

M^r *Jones* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to revive An Act, intituled *An Act¹ for the better regulating and disciplining the Militia*; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that M^r *Thornton* be added to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

³¹⁷ M^r *Jones* presented to the House, according to order, a Bill to revive an Act, intituled *An Act² for reducing the several Acts of Assembly, for making Provision against Invasions and Insurrections, into one Act*; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

An engrossed Bill to enable Persons living in other Countries to dispose of their Estates in this Colony, with more ease and convenience, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was read the third time.

An ingrossed Clause was offered to be added to the Bill, by way of Rider, for saving the Rights of Strangers and Persons who had commenced suits.

And the said Clause was thrice read, and, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House, to be made part of the Bill by way of Rider.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act³ to enable Persons living in other Countries to dispose of their Estates in this Colony, with more ease and convenience, and for other purposes therein mentioned*.

Ordered, that M^r *Mercer* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

M^r *Jones* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to continue an Act, intituled *An Act⁴ to prevent the exorbitant exactions of the Collectors of the County and Parish levies* and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

A Bill to revive the Act, intituled *An Act⁵ for giving a Salary to the Speaker of the House of Burgesse*, was read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

³¹⁸ M^r *Jones* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to continue an Act, intituled *An Act⁶ to make provision for the support and maintenance of Ideots, Lunatics, and other Persons of unsound Minds*; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

The order of the Day being read, for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into their further Consideration the Governor's Speech.

The House resolved itself into the said Committee.

M^r *Speaker* left the Chair.

M^r *Cary* took the Chair of the Committee.

M^r *Speaker* resumed the Chair.

M^r *Cary* reported from the Committee, that they had made a further Progress in the matters referred to them; and that the Committee had directed him to move, that they may have leave to sit again.

Resolved, that this House will, tomorrow resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into their further Consideration the Governor's Speech.

M^r *Jones* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill for further continuing an Act, intituled *An Act for amending and further continuing an Act⁷, for the more effectual keeping*

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 503.

⁵ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 587.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 514.

⁶ *Ibid.*, IX, p. 173.

³ *Ibid.*, IX, p. 207.

⁷ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 542.

⁴ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 381.

keeping the public Roads and Bridges in repair; and also one other Act, intituled *An Act for the more effectual keeping the public Roads and Bridges in repair*; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

A Bill, for further continuing an Act, intituled *An Act¹ for appointing a Treasurer*, was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to Mr *Henry Lee*, Mr *Mercer*, and Mr *Digges*. ³¹⁹

Mr *Jones* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill, to revive an Act, intituled *An Act² for reviving the duty upon Slaves, to be paid by the buyers, for the term therein mentioned*, and also, one other Act, intituled, *An Act³ to oblige Persons bringing Slaves into this Colony from Maryland, Carolina, and the West Indies, for their own use, to pay a Duty*; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Ordered, that the Bill do lie upon the Table.

An ingrossed Bill, to dock the intail of four hundred Acres of Land, whereof *Edward Harwood* and *Elizabeth* his Wife are seised, and settling other Lands and Slaves, in lieu thereof, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act⁴ to dock the intail of four hundred Acres of Land, whereof Edward Harwood and Elizabeth his Wife are seised, and settling other Lands and Slaves, in lieu thereof, and for other purposes therein mentioned*.

Ordered, that Mr *Digges* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

The other order of the Day being read;

Resolved, that this House will, tomorrow, Resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill, to amend the Act, intituled *An Act⁵ for better securing the payment of Levies and Restraint of Vagrants, and for making Provision for the Poor*.

A Bill, for vesting certain Lots and Streets in the Town of *Patefield*; in Trustees, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be ingrossed.

Mr *Cary* reported, that two of his Majesty's Council, and the Members appointed by this House had pursuant to the order of Yesterday, presented to his Excellency, the Governor, on board his Majesty's Ship the *Fowey*, the Address of the Council, and this House; and that he was pleased to say, that, as the subject of their Address was of the utmost importance to the Colony, and to himself and his Family, he would take time to consider of it, and would return an Answer in writing after he had maturely deliberated upon its Contents. ³²⁰

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, ten of the Clock.

Saturday, the 10th of June, 15 Geo. III. 1775.

MR *Bassett* reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands, whereof *William Day* is seised, in Fee tail, and for settling other Lands and Slaves to be purchased in lieu thereof, was committed, that the Committee had examined the Alligations of the Bill, and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made several Amendments thereunto, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendments, in at the Clerks Table, where the Amendments were once read throughout, and then a second time, one by one, and, upon the Question severally put thereupon, were agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Bill with the Amendments be ingrossed.

Mr *Cary* reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill to vest certain intailed Lands therein mentioned in *Wilson Miles Cary*, Esquire, in fee simple, and to settle other ³²¹

¹ Hening's, V, p. 64.
⁵ *Ibid.*, IX, p. 216.

² *Ibid.*, VII, p. 281.

³ *Ibid.*, VII, p. 338.

⁴ Not recorded as a law.

other lands, in lieu thereof, was committed, that the Committee had examined the Allegations of the Bill, and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had directed him to report the Bill to the House, without any Amendment; and he delivered the Bill in at the Clerk's Table.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

A *Petition* of *Thomas Bradford* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner is seised in Feat of five hundred Acres of Land, in the Parish of *Saint George*, in the County of *Accomack*; and that it will be advantageous to the Petitioner and his Heir and family to vest two hundred Acres, part thereof, in *Caleb Upshur*, who hath agreed to purchase the same, and lay out the Consideration money in Slaves, to be annexed to the remaining three hundred Acres; and therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for that purpose.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that *M^r Isaac Smith* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A *Petition* of sundry Persons, of the County of *Halifax*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read, praying, that a public Ferry may be established, over *Dan River*, from the land of *John Boyd*, to the land of *Patrick Boyd*.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

³²² A *Petition* of *Howell Lewis* was presented to the House, and read; praying that the public ferry over *Dan River*, from the land formerly belonging to *Nathaniel Terry*, Gentleman, to the land, formerly belonging to *William Fuqua*, may be removed lower down the River to or near the Mouth of *Mill Creek*, the lands on both sides and at both Places now belonging to the Petitioner.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A *Petition* of *David Brandon* was presented to the House, and read, praying that a public Ferry¹ may be established over *Dan River*, from the land of the Petitioner, in the County of *Halifax*, to the land of *John Lawson*.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

A *Petition* of *Elizabeth Croley* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth; that the Petitioner's Husband *Samuel Croley*, a Soldier enlisted under the command of Colonel *Lewis* was killed in the engagement with the Indians, on the tenth day of *October* last, leaving the Petitioner and several small Children in a helpless Condition; and therefore praying relief.

³²³ *Ordered*, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Another *Member*, having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and subscribed the Test, took his place in the House.

Ordered, that *M^r Lankford* be added to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

The *order* of the Day being read, for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill to amend the Act, intituled *An Act² for better securing the payment of levies, and Restraint of Vagrants, and for making Provision for the Poor*.

Resolved, that this House will, upon *Tuesday* next, Resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the said Bill.

The other *order* of the day being read;

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into their further Consideration the Governor's Speech.

M^r Speaker left the Chair.

M^r

¹ *Hening's*, IX, p. 233.

² *Ibid.*, IX, p. 216.

M^r Cary took the Chair of the Committee.

M^r Speaker resumed the Chair.

M^r Cary reported from the Committee that they had gone through the matter to them referred, and had come to a Resolution, which they had directed him to report, when the House will please to receive the same.

Ordered, that the Report be now received.

M^r Cary accordingly reported from the said Committee the Resolution which the Committee had directed him to report to the House; which he read in his Place, and afterwards delivered in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee that an Address be presented to ⁸²⁴ his Excellency, the Governor, to inform him that we have taken into our Consideration the joint Address of the two Houses of Parliament, his Majesty's Answer, and the Resolution of the Commons which his Lordship has been pleased to lay before us. that wishing nothing so sincerely as the perpetual continuance of that brotherly love which we bear to our fellow subjects of *Great Britain* and still continuing to hope and believe that they do not approve the measures which have so long oppressed their brethren in *America*, we were pleased to receive his *Lordship's* notification that a benevolent tender had at length been made by the British House of Commons towards bringing to a good end our unhappy disputes with the Mother Country: that next to the possession of liberty, we should consider such Reconciliation the greatest of all human blessings. with these dispositions we entered into consideration of that Resolution we examined it minutely; we viewed it in every point of light in which we were able to place it and with pain and disappointment we must ultimately declare it only changes the form of oppression, without lightening its burthen. that we cannot close with the terms of that Resolution for these Reasons.

Because the British Parliament has no right to intermeddle with the support of civil government in the Colonies. for us, not for them, has government been instituted here; agreeable to our Ideas provision has been made for such Officers as we think necessary for the administration of public affairs; and we cannot conceive that **any** other legislature has a right to prescribe either the number or pecuniary appointments of our Offices. As a proof that the Claim of Parliament to interfere in the necessary Provisions for support of civil Government is novel and of a late Date we take leave to refer to an Act of our Assembly passed so long since as the thirty second Year of the Reign of King Charles the second intituled *An Act¹ for raising a public Revenue and for the better support of the Government of this his Majesty's Colony of Virginia.* This Act was brought over by Lord Culpeper then Governor under the great Seal of *England* and was enacted in the name of the "King's most excellent Majesty by and with the Consent of the General Assembly."

Because to render perpetual our exemption from an unjust taxation, we must saddle ourselves with a perpetual tax adequate to the expectations and subject to the disposal of Parliament alone. whereas, we have right to give our money, as the Parliament does theirs, without coercion, from time to time, as public exigencies may require, we conceive that we alone are the judges of the condition, circumstances, and situation of our people, as the Parliament are of theirs. it is not merely the mode of raising, but the freedom of granting our Money for which we have contended. without this we possess no check on the royal prerogative, and what must be much lamented by dutiful and loyal subjects, we should be stript of the only means, as well of recommending this Country to the favour of our most gracious Sovereign as of strengthening those bands of Amity with our fellow subjects which we would wish to remain indissoluble.

Because on our undertaking to grant money as is proposed, the Commons only resolve to forbear levying pecuniary taxes on us; still leaving unrepealed their several Acts passed for the purposes of restraining the trade and altering the form of Government

¹ Hening's, II, p. 466.

ment of the Eastern Colonies; extending the boundaries and changing the Government and Religion of *Quebec*; enlarging the jurisdiction of the Courts of Admiralty, and taking from us the right of trial by jury; and transporting us into other Countries to be tried for criminal Offences. Standing armies too are still to be kept among us, and the other numerous grievances of which ourselves and sister Colonies separately and by our representatives in General Congress have so often complained, are still to continue without redress.

Because at the very time of requiring from us grants of Money they are making disposition to invade us with large Armaments by Sea and land, which is a style of asking gifts not reconcileable to our freedom. they are also proceeding to a Repetition of injury by passing acts for restraining the commerce and fisheries of the Provinces of *New England*, and for prohibiting the Trade of the other Colonies with all parts of the world except the Islands of *Great Britain, Ireland, and the West Indies*. this seems to bespeak no intention to discontinue the exercise of this usurped Power over us in future.

Because on our agreeing to contribute our proportion towards the common defence, they do not propose to lay open to us a free trade with all the world: whereas to us it appears just that those who bear equally the burthens of Government, should equally participate of its benefits. either be content with the monopoly of our trade, which brings greater loss to us and benefit to them than the amount of our proportional contributions to the common defence; or, if the latter be preferred, relinquish the former, and do not propose, by holding both, to exact from us double contributions. Yet we would remind Government that on former emergencies when called upon as a free People, however cramped by this monopoly in our resources of wealth, we have liberally contributed to the common defence. be assured then that we shall be generous in future as in past times, disdaining the shackles of proportion when called to our free station in the general system of the Empire.

Because the proposition now made to us involves the interest of all the other Colonies. We are now represented in General Congress, by members approved by this House where our former Union it is hoped will be so strongly cemented that no partial Application can produce the slightest departure from the common Cause. We consider ourselves as bound in Honor as well as Interest to share one general Fate with our Sister Colonies, and should hold ourselves base Defreters of that Union, to which we have acceded, were we to agree on any Measures distinct and apart from them.

To observe that there was indeed a plan of accommodation offered in Parliament, which tho' not entirely equal to the terms we had a right to ask, yet differed but in few Points from what the General Congress had held out. had Parliament been disposed sincerely as we are to bring about a reconciliation, reasonable men had hoped that by meeting us on this ground something might have been done. Lord *Chatham's* bill on the one part and the terms of the Congress on the other would have formed a basis for negotiation which a spirit of accommodation on both sides might perhaps have reconciled. it came recommended too from one whose successful experience in the art of Government should have ensured to it some attention from those to whom it was tendered. he had shown to the world that *Great Britain* with her Colonies, united firmly under a just and honest government, formed a power which might bid defiance to the most potent enemies. with a change of Ministers however a total change of measure took place; the component parts of the empire have from that moment been falling asunder, and a total annihilation of its weight in the political scale of the World seems justly to be apprehended.

To declare that these are our sentiments on this important subject, which we offer only as an individual part of the whole empire. final determination we leave to the General Congress now sitting, before whom we shall lay the Papers his Lordship has communicated to us. to their Wisdom we commit the improvement of this important advance; if it can be wrought into any good, we are assured they will do it. to them also we refer the discovery of that proper method of representing our well founded grievances which his Lordship assures us will meet with the attention and regard so justly

justly due to them. for ourselves, we have exhausted every mode of application which our invention could suggest as proper and promising we have decently remonstrated with Parliament; they have added new injuries to the old: we have wearied our King with supplication, he has not deigned to answer us: We have appealed to the native honour and justice of the British nation; their efforts in our favour. What then remains to be done? that we commit our injuries to the even-handed justice of that being who doth no wrong, earnestly beseeching him to illuminate the Councils and prosper the endeavors of those to whom America hath confided her hopes; that thro' their wise direction we may again see reunited the blessings of Liberty, Property, and Union with *Great Britain*.

The said *Resolution*, being read a second time, was upon the Question put there-upon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to draw up an *Addres*, to be presented to the Governor upon the said *Resolution*.

And a *Committee* was appointed of Mr *Cary*, Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Jefferson*, Mr *Munford*, ³²⁹ Mr *Mercer*, Mr *Jones*, Mr *Digges*, and Mr *Nelson*.

A *Message* from the Council by Mr *Blair*:

Mr *Speaker*,

*His Excellency, the Governor, hath desired the President to communicate to this House his answer to the joint *Addres* of the Council and the House of *Burgesse*s, presented Yester-day to his Excellency; and he presented the said *Answe*r at the Bar.*

And then the Meffenger withdrew.

The *Governor's Answe*r was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

*Gentlemen, of the Council, Mr *Speaker*, and
Gentlemen of the House of *Burgesse*s.*

*In answer to your joint *Addres*, presented by your deputies yesterday, I acquaint you, that it appears to me the commotions among the People, and their menaces and threats (an enumeration of which I forbear, out of tenderness) have been of such public notoriety, that you must suppose many of his Majesty's subjects in this Colony, whether they meditated or not, have at least manifested, such an inveteracy as justifies my suspicion that they would not hesitate to commit a Crime, which, horrid and atrocious as it is, I had just ground to apprehend. And when the disposition which the House of *Burgesse*s have shown towards me, the returns they have made to the respect and civility which I have been forward to offer to them, the countenance they have given to the violent and disorderly proceedings of the People, his Majesty's magazine having been forced and rifled in the presence of some of the members of the House of *Burgesse*s, and, by the information of the Committee of the House appointed to inspect the Magazine, no other endeavours have been used than to prevail on the People to return the Arms taken out, but not to commit the Persons in whose possession they were found, in order that they might be brought to the punishment due to so heinous an offence, no less against the peace and good order of the Country than the dignity and authority of the King; when a body of Men assembled in the City of Williamsburg, not only to the knowledge, but with the approbation of every body, for the avowed purpose of attacking a party of the Kings forces, which, without the least foundation, it was reported were marching to my protection, and which, if true, ought to have been approved and aided, not opposed and insulted, by all good and loyal Subjects; when especially the House of *Burgesse*s, or a committee of the House (which is the same) has ventured upon a step fraught with the most alarming consequences, in ordering and appointing guards, without even consulting me, to mount in the city of Williamsburg, as is pretended, to protect the Magazine, but which may well be doubted, as there then remained nothing therein which required being guarded; but if otherwise, this step nevertheless shews a design to usurp the executive power, which, if it be persisted in, subverts the constitution: I say, when these circumstances are*

are duly considered, I may submit it to your own Judgment whether I could reasonably expect any good effect from communicating the ground of my uneasiness to you.

But as you are pleased, Gentlemen, now to assure me, that you will cheerfully concur
 331 in any measure that may be proposed proper for the security of myself and family, I leave to your own consideration whether that can be effected any other wise than by reinstating me in the full powers of my office, as his Majesty's representative, by opening the Courts of Justice, and restoring the energy of the Laws, which is all the security requisite for all parties; by disarming all independent companies, or other bodies of Men raised and acting in defiance of lawful authority, and by obliging those who have taken any of his Majesty's public store of Arms to deliver them up immediately; and, what is not less essential than any thing by your own example, and every means in your power, abolishing that Spirit of persecution, which, to the disgrace of humanity, now reigns, and pursues with menaces and acts of oppression, all persons who differ from the multitude in political opinion, or are attached from principles and duty to the service of their King and government; by which means, the deluded People never hearing but the disfigured side of a Story, their minds are continually kept in that ferment which subjects them forever to be imposed upon, and leads to the commission of any desperate Act, and endangers the general safety. For the more speedy accomplishment of these ends, and the great object and necessary business of the Sessions, I shall have no objection to your adjourning to the Town of York, where I shall meet you, and remain with you till your business be finished.

With respect to your entreaty that I should return to the Palace, as the most likely means of quieting the minds of the People, I must represent to you, that, unless there be among you a sincere and active desire to seize this opportunity, now offered to you by Parliament, of establishing the freedom of your Country upon a fixed and known foundation, and of uniting yourselves with your fellow subjects of Great Britain in one common bond of interest, and mutual assistance, my return to Williamsburg would be as fruitless to the People, as, possibly, it might be dangerous to myself. But if your proceedings manifest that happy disposition, which is to be desired ardently by every good friend to this as well as the Mother Country, I assure you, in the warmth of my heart, that I will return, with the greatest joy, and shall consider it as the most fortunate event of my Life if you give me an opportunity to be an instrument of promoting your happiness, and a mediator between you and the supreme authority, to obtain for you every explanation of your doubts, and the fullest conviction of the sincerity of their desire to confirm to you the undisturbed enjoyment of your rights and liberty; and I shall be well pleased, by bringing my family back again, that you should have such a pledge of my attachment to this Country, and of my wishes to cultivate a close and lasting intimacy with the inhabitants.

DUNMORE.

Resolved, that the said Answer be taken into Consideration on Monday next.

Resolved, that this House will, upon Monday next, Resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into Consideration the Governor's Answer to the joint Address of the Council and this House.

Mr Jefferson reported from the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, to whom several Petitions were referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the
 333 said Petitions, and had come to several Resolutions thereupon; which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of Hugh Walker, praying that a public Ferry from Urbanna, over Rappahannock River, to a place called Arm's Creek, in the County of Lancaster, may be established, and the ferry to Chetwoods discontinued, is reasonable.

Resolved,

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of divers inhabitants of the County of *Culpeper*, praying that a public ferry may be established, from the land of *Bowles Armistead*, in the County of *Culpeper* to the land of *Alexander Spotswood*, in the County of *Spotsylvania*, at a place called *Eleys Ford*, is reasonable.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of the inhabitants of the Town of *Staunton*, in the County of *Augusta*, praying that an Act of Assembly may pass, to prevent Hogs going at large in the said Town, is reasonable.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of sundry inhabitants of the County of *Augusta*, praying that they may be added to the County of *Hampshire*, by a line, drawn from the land of *Bosley Hovers*, on the south-fork of the South branch of *Potowmack River*, to the land of *Ulrick Conrod*, on the South branch; and from thence to the land of *John Bennet*, on the North fork of *Potowmack River*, is reasonable.

The three first Resolutions of the Committee, being severally read a second time, were upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

The subsequent Resolution of the Committee, being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, postponed.

Ordered, that a Bill or Bills be brought in pursuant to the three first of the said Resolutions, which have been agreed to by the House; and the said Committee do prepare and bring in the same.

A Petition of *John West* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner is seised in fee tail of two thousand six hundred and ten Acres of land, in the County of *King William*, and that it will be advantageous to himself and his Family to settle other lands and Slaves, in lieu thereof, and praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for that purpose.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that *M^r Nelson* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A Petition of *Lewis Burwell* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner is seised in fee tail of two thousand and two hundred Acres of Land, or thereabouts, in the Counties of *York*, and *James City*, and that his Slaves, most of which were annexed to the said Lands, have been taken in Execution and sold for payment of his just debts, whereby he is unable to cultivate the said Lands; and praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill, to dock the intail thereof, that, the same being vested in him in fee simple, to which his eldest Son consents, upon the Credit thereof he may purchase Slaves for the advantage of himself and his family.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the prayer of the said Petition; and that *M^r Nelson* do prepare, and bring in the same.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill, to repeal the Act of General Assembly, made in the twelfth Year of his present Majesty, intituled, *An Act¹ to amend an Act intituled an Act for the better preservation of the breed of Deer, and preventing unlawful hunting*, so far as the same relates to certain Counties; and that *M^r Carrington* and *M^r Nelson* do prepare and bring in the same.

A Petition of *Thomas Edwards* was presented to the House and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner is seised of three hundred and eighteen Acres of land, in the Parish of *Saint Stephen*, in the County of *Northumberland*, in fee tail, and of two hundred Acres of land, in the County of *Spotsylvania*, in fee simple; and praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill to dock the intail of the former tract of land, and instead thereof to settle the other, in order to enable the Petitioner to make a better provision for his younger Children.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill, pursuant to the prayer of the said Petition; and that *M^r Charles Carter*, of *Lancaster*, do prepare, and bring in the same.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to inquire into the Causes of the late disturbances and commotions, and report the same, as they shall appear to them, to the House.

And

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 591.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Cary*, Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Mercer*, Mr *Banister*, Mr *Munford*, Mr *Jones*, Mr *Charles Carter*, of *Lancaster*, Mr *Digges*, Mr *Whitinge*, Mr *Nelson*, Mr *Francis Lightfoot Lee*, Mr *Wood*, Mr *William Cabell*, Mr *Braxton*, and Mr *Zane*; and they are to have Power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill, for appointing an Agent; and that
336 Mr *Braxton* and Mr *Treasurer* do prepare, and bring in the same.

And then the House adjourned till Monday Morning next, ten of the Clock.

Monday, the 12th of June. 15 Geo. III. 1775.

SEVERAL other Members, having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and subscribed the Test, took their places in the House.

Ordered, that Mr *Marshall* be added to the Committee for Religion, and the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

Ordered, that Mr *Stubblefield* be added to the Committee of Trade.

Ordered, that Mr *Trigg* be added to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

Mr *Digges* presented to the House, according order, a Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands in the County of *York* whereof *Robert Matthews* and *Anne* his Wife are seised, in her right, and for settling other Lands to the same Uses; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

A *Petition* of the Community of Christians, called *Menonites*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioners hold it to be contrary to the holy word of GOD to swear in any matter whatsoever, so that they cannot become Witnesses in matters of controversy depending in any Court, nor can execute the Office of Executor of any Testament, nor undertake the Administration of any intestate's Estates, whereby they suffer many inconveniences; and therefore praying, that they may have the same liberty of affirming to the Truth of any matter as is indulged to
337 the People called *Quakers*, whose religious persuasion that of the Petitioners nearly resemble.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Religion; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

A *Petition* of *Alexander Purdie* was presented to the House, and read; praying, that the Salary heretofore allowed to the public Printer may be allowed to the Petitioner; whom this House hath lately honored with an Appointment to that Office.

Resolved, that the sum of Four hundred and fifty Pounds, per Annum, be allowed to *Alexander Purdie*, Printer, to continue to the end of the next Session of General Assembly, as a full consideration for printing the Journal of the House of Burgesses, and the laws of each Session, both of which are to be half bound, and sending as many Copies of those Laws to the County Court Clerks as there are acting Justices in the Commission in each respective County, and one other for the use of the Court, and ten to the Clerks of the Courts of Hustings, in the City of *Williamsburg*, and borough of *Norfolk*, and printing Inspectors Receipts, and Books, Proclamations, and public Advertisements.

Ordered, that Mr *Nelson* do carry the Resolutions to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

A *Petition* of several Persons, of the County of *Accomack*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; praying, that the public Inspection of Tobacco at *Guilford* may not be removed to Hunting Creek; a less convenient place.

Ordered,

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House. 338

M^r Isaac Smith presented to the House, according to order, a Bill to dock the intail of two hundred Acres of Land, whereof Thomas Bradford is seised, and for settling Slaves, of the same value, in lieu thereof; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

A Petition of William Lynn of the County of Augusta, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner serving as a lieutenant of the Militia, in an expedition against the upper Shawanese Towns, on the second of August last, in an engagement with the Enemy, received a Wound in his Breast and Shoulder, by which he is become unable to labour; and therefore praying the Consideration of the House.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Public Claims, and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

An ingrossed Bill, to revive the Act, intituled *An Act for giving a Salary to the Speaker of the House of Burgesses*, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the title be, *An Act¹ to revive the Act, intituled An Act for giving a Salary to the Speaker of the House of Burgesses*.

Ordered, that M^r Jones do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

An ingrossed Bill, for altering and establishing the boundaries of the Counties of Stafford and King George, was read the third time. 339

Resolved, that the Bill do pass, and that the title be, *An Act² for altering and establishing the boundaries of the Counties of Stafford and King George*.

Ordered, that M^r Jones do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

An ingrossed Bill, to dock the intail of certain Lands, whereof Nathaniel Lyttleton Savage is seised in Fee tail, and for settling Slaves in lieu thereof, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the title be, *An Act³ to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof Nathaniel Lyttleton Savage is seised in fee tail, and for settling Slaves in lieu thereof*.

Ordered, that M^r Bowdoin do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

An ingrossed Bill, to dock the intail of certain Lands, whereof William Day is seised in fee tail, and for settling other lands and Slaves, to be purchased, in lieu thereof, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act³ to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof William Day is seised in fee tail, and for settling other Lands and Slaves, to be purchased, in lieu thereof*.

Ordered, that M^r Dandridge do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

An ingrossed Bill, to vest certain intailed Lands therein mentioned in Wilson Miles Cary, Esquire, in fee-simple, and to settle other Lands in lieu thereof, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the title be, *An Act³ to vest certain intailed Lands therein mentioned in Wilson Miles Cary, Esquire, in fee-simple, and to settle other Lands in lieu thereof*. 340

Ordered, that M^r Cary do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Ordered, that the Committee for Religion be discharged from proceeding upon the Petition of the Vestrymen of the Parish of Saint John, in the County of King William, praying that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for felling the present Glebe of the said Parish, and purchasing another more convenient, or putting the Money out at Interest.

Ordered,

¹ Hening's. VIII, p. 210.

² Ibid., IX, p. 244.

³ Not recorded as a law.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr Braxton and Mr Aylett do prepare, and bring in the same.

Mr Cary reported from the Committee appointed to draw up an Address, to be presented to the Governor, that the Committee had drawn up an Address accordingly; which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the same in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read and is as followeth, *viz.*

My Lord,

We his Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Burgesses of Virginia, now met in General Assembly, have taken into our Consideration the joint Address of the two Houses of Parliament, his Majesty's answer, and the Resolution of the Commons which your Lordship has been pleased to lay before us, wishing nothing so sincerely as the perpetual continuance of that brotherly love which we bear to our fellow subjects of Great Britain, and still continuing to hope and believe that they do not approve the measures which have so long oppressed their brethren in America, we were pleased to receive your Lordship's notification that a benevolent tender had at length been made by the British house of Commons towards bringing to a good end our unhappy disputes with the Mother Country. next to the possession of liberty my Lord we should consider such a reconciliation as the greatest of all human blessings. with these dispositions we entered into consideration of that Resolution: we examined it minutely; we viewed it in every point of light in which we were able to place it; and with pain and disappointment we must ultimately declare it only changes the form of oppression, without lightening its burthen we cannot, my Lord, close with the terms of that Resolution for these Reasons.

Because the British Parliament has no right to intermeddle with the support of civil Government in the Colonies. for us, not for them, has government been instituted here, agreeable to our Ideas provision has been made for such Officers as we think necessary for the Administration of public affairs; and we cannot conceive that any other legislature has right to prescribe either the number of pecuniary appointments of our Offices. As a proof that the Claim of Parliament to interfere in the necessary provisions for support of civil Government is novel and of a late date we take leave to refer to an Act of our Assembly passed so long since as the thirty second Year of the Reign of King Charles the second intituled "An Act¹ for raising a public revenue and for the better support of the Government of this his Majesty's Colony of Virginia." this Act was brought over by Lord Culpeper, then Governor, under the great Seal of England and was enacted in the name of "the Kings most excellent Majesty by and with the consent of the General Assembly."

Because, to render perpetual our exemption from an unjust taxation we must saddle ourselves with a perpetual tax adequate to the expectations and subject to the disposal of Parliament alone. whereas we have right to give our Money, as the Parliament do theirs, without coercion, from time to time, as public exigencies may require. we conceive that we alone are the judges of the condition, circumstances and situation of our people, as the Parliament are of theirs. it is not merely the mode of raising, but the freedom of granting our money for which we have contended. without this we possess no check on the royal prerogative; and, what must be lamented by dutiful and loyal Subjects, we should be stript of the only means as well of recommending this country to the favours of our most gracious sovereign, as of strengthening those bonds of Amity with our fellow-subjects which we would wish to remain indissoluble.

Because, on our undertaking to grant Money as is proposed, the Commons only resolve to forbear levying pecuniary taxes on us; still leaving unrepealed their several Acts passed for the purposes of restraining the trade and altering the form of Government of the Eastern Colonies; extending the boundaries and changing the Government and Religion of Quebec; enlarging the jurisdiction of the Courts of Admiralty, taking from us the right of trial by jury; and transporting us into other Countries to be tried for Criminal Offences. Standing Armies too are still to be kept among us, and the other numerous grievances of which ourselves and

¹ Hening's, II, p. 466.

and Sister-Colonies, separately and by our representatives in General Congress have so often complained, are still to continue without redress.

Because at the very time of requiring from us Grants of money they are making disposition to invade us with large Armaments by sea and land, which is a style of asking Gifts not reconcileable to our freedom. they are also proceeding to a repetition of injury by passing Acts for restraining the Commerce and Fisheries of the Provinces of New England, and for prohibiting the trade of the other Colonies with all parts of the world, except the Islands of Great Britain, Ireland, and the West Indies. this seems to bespeak no intention to discontinue the exercise of this usurped power over us in future.

Because, on our agreeing to contribute our proportion towards the common defence, they do not propose to lay open to us a free trade with all the World: whereas to us it appears just that those who bear equally the burthens of Government, should equally participate of its benefits. either be contented with the monopoly of our Trade, which brings greater loss to us and benefit to them, than the amount of our proportional contributions to the common defence; or, if the latter be preferred, relinquish the former, and do not propose, by holding both, to exact from us double contributions. yet we would remind Government that on former emergencies when called upon as a free people, however Cramped by this monopoly in our resources of wealth, we have liberally contributed to the common defence. be assured then that we shall be generous in future as in past times, disdaining the Shackles of proportion when called to our free Station in the general system of the Empire.

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Because the proposition now made to us involves the interest of all the other Colonies. we are now represented in General Congress by members approved by this House, where our former union it is hoped will be so strongly cemented that no partial applications can produce the slightest departure from the common cause. we consider ourselves as bound in honor as well as interest to share one general fate with our Sister Colonies, and should hold ourselves base deserters of that union to which we have acceded, were we to agree on any measures distinct and apart from them.

There was indeed a plan of accomodation offered in parliament, which though not entirely equal to the terms we had a right to ask, yet differed but in few points from what the General Congress had held out. had Parliament been disposed sincerely as we are to bring about a reconciliation, reasonable Men had hoped that by meeting us on this ground, something might have been done. Lord Chatham's bill on the one part, and the terms of the Congress on the other, would have formed a basis for negotiation, which a spirit of accomodation on both sides might perhaps have reconciled. it came recommended too from one whose successful experience in the art of Government should have ensured to it some attention from those to whom it was tendered. he had shewn to the World that Great Britain with her Colonies, united firmly under a just and honest government formed a power which might bid defiance to the most potent Enemies. With a Change of Ministers however, a total Change of Measures took place; the component parts of the empire have from that Moment been falling asunder, and a total annihilation of its weight in the political scale of the World seems justly to be apprehended.

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These, my Lord, are our sentiments on this very important subject which we offer only as an individual part of the whole Empire. final determination we leave to the General Congress now sitting, before whom we shall lay the papers your Lordship has communicated to us. to their wisdom we commit the improvement of this important advance; if it can be wrought into any good we are assured they will do it. to them also we refer the discovery of that proper method of representing our well founded grievances which your Lordship assures us will meet with the attention and regard so justly due to them. for ourselves, we have exhausted every mode of application which our invention could suggest as proper and promising. We have decently remonstrated with parliament, they have added new injuries to the old: we have wearied our King with supplications, he has not deigned to answer us; we have appealed to the native honour and justice of the British nation, their efforts in our favor have been hitherto ineffectual. What then remains to be done? that we commit our injuries to the evenhanded justice of that being who doth no wrong, earnestly beseeching him

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to illuminate the Counsels and prosper the endeavors of those to whom America hath confided her hopes; that thro' their wise direction we may again see reunited the blessings of Liberty and Property, and the most permanent Harmony with Great Britain.,

The said *Addrefs*, being read a seconnd time;

³⁴⁶ *Resolved*, that the Houfe doth agree with the Committee in the said *Addrefs*, to be prefenteted to the Governor.

Resolved, that the said *Addrefs* be prefenteted to his Excellency by M^r *Cary*, M^r *Munford*, M^r *Braxton*, M^r *Jones*, and M^r *Wood*.

The *order* of the Day being read;

Resolved, that this Houfe will, tomorrow Refolve itfelf into a Committee of the whole Houfe, to take into Consideration the Governor's Answer to the joint *Addrefs* of the Council and this Houfe.

And then the Houfe adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, ten of the Clock.

Tuesday, the 13th of June, 15 Geo. III. 1775.

³⁴⁷ **T**HE Houfe being informed, that the Sherif of the County of *Nansemond* attended;

Ordered, that the said Sherif do amend his return of the Writ, for electing Burgeffes to serve in this preffent General Assembly for, the County of *Nansemond*; and he amended the said return accordingly.

M^r *Nelson* reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *James Roseow* is feifed, and for other purpofes therein mentioned, was committed, that the Committee had examined the Allegations of the Bill, and found the fame to be true; and that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made an Amendment thereunto, which they had directed him to report to the Houfe; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendment, in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendment was twice read, and, upon the Question put thereupon, was agreed to by the Houfe.

Ordered, that the Bill, with the Amendment, be engroffed.

A *Petition* of *Robert Slaughter*, Senior of the County of *Culpeper*, was prefenteted to the Houfe and read; fetting forth, that two Hogsheads of Tobacco, belonging to the Petitioner, infpected at *Falmouth* Warehouse, were, in the great fresh in the Year 1770, carried away, and lost, and were omitted in the lift delivered in by the Commissioners fo that the Petitioner hath received no fatisfaction for them; and therefore praying Relief.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the fame, with their Opinions thereupon, to the Houfe.

M^r *Mercer* prefenteted to the Houfe, according to order, a Bill¹ for appointing Commissioners to fettle the Accounts of the Militia, lately drawn out into actual Service, and for making provision to pay the fame; and the fame was received, and read the firft time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a seconnd time.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a seconnd time.

The Bill was accordingly read a seconnd time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole Houfe.

Resolved, that this Houfe will, Tomorrow, refolve itfelf into a Committee of the whole Houfe upon the said Bill.

M^r *Cary* reported from the Committee of public Claims, to whom feveral Petitions were referred, that the Committee had examined the matters of the said Petitions, and had

¹ Hening's, IX, p. 61.

had come to several Resolutions thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *David Donnan*, to be allowed for his Slaves *York* and *Abram*, who were taken up as runaways, and committed to the Gaol of the County of *Prince George*, and burned to death therein, be rejected.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *John Martin*, to be allowed for his Slave *Lemon*, who was taken up as a runaway, and committed to the Gaol of the County of *Prince George*, and burned to death therein, be rejected.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *John Robinson*, Executor of the last Will and Testament of *Peter Robinson* deceased to be allowed for a slave therein named, who was taken up as a runaway, and committed to the Gaol of the County of *Louisa*, and burned to death therein, be rejected.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *William Fleming*, who served as lieutenant Colonel under the Command of *Andrew Lewis*, lieutenant of the County of *Botetourt*, in the late engagement with the *Indians*, and was wounded in the breast and left Arm, so that he is unable to practise Surgery, which is his profession, is reasonable; and that he ought to be allowed the sum of one hundred Pounds, for his present relief, and the further sum of Sixty Pounds per Annum, during his life, as a recompence for his gallant Behaviour, and the Wounds he received in defence of this Colony.

The three first *Resolutions* of the Committee, being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

The subsequent *Resolution* of the Committee being read a second time,

An *Amendment* was proposed to be made thereunto, by leaving out the words, "one hundred," and inserting the words "five hundred," instead thereof.

And the *Question* being put, that the Words, "One hundred," stand part of the said *Resolution*;

It passed in the Negative.

And the *Question* being put, that the Words, "five hundred," be inserted instead thereof;

It was *resolved* in the Affirmative.

Another *Amendment* was proposed to be made to the said *Resolution*, by leaving out the words "the further sum of Sixty Pounds per Annum during his Life."

And the *Question* being put, that the Words, "the further sum of sixty Pounds per Annum during his Life," stand part of the said *Resolution*;

It passed in the Negative.

Resolved, that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said *Resolution* so amended.

Resolved, that the sum of five hundred Pounds be paid to lieutenant Colonel *William Fleming*, for his present Relief, and as a recompence for his gallant behaviour, and the Wounds he received in defence of this Colony.

Ordered, that M^r *Cary* do carry the *Resolution* to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

M^r *Henry Lee* reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill for further continuing an Act, intituled *An Act for appointing a Treasurer*, was committed, that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made an *Amendment* thereunto, which they had directed him to report to the House, and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the *Amendment*, in at the Clerk's Table; where the *Amendment* was twice read, and, upon the *Question* put thereupon, was agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Bill, with the *Amendment*, be engrossed.

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¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 211.

M^r *Nelson* presented to the House, according to Order a Bill to vest certain intailed Lands, in the County of *King William*, in *John West*, Gentleman, in fee simple, and for other purposes therein mentioned; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to M^r *Aylett*, M^r *Brooke*, M^r *Lyne*, M^r *James Taylor*, of *Caroline*, M^r *Bassett*, M^r *Dandridge*, and M^r *William Cabell*.

M^r *Mercer* reported from the Committee appointed to inspect the Magazine in this City, and inquire into the Stores belonging to the same, that the Committee had inspected the said Magazine, and inquired into the said Stores accordingly, and had directed him to report the same, as it appeared to them, to the House; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

It appears to your Committee from the Deposition of *John Frederick Miller*, keeper of the Magazine, that in *June* last there were there thirty barrels of Gun Powder, containing each about fifty weight, in indifferent order; that, by the Governor's directions, he sifted twenty seven barrels, out of which he made up twenty six Casks and better, the other three he left unsifted; That the President, soon after, sent to the Governor, then on the Frontiers, eight of those he had sifted, three hundred Muskets, Bayonets, Cartouch boxes, and Carbines, which have never been returned; That one hundred and sixty of the said Muskets were furnished out of the Palace, and soon after replaced out of the Magazine; That the said *Miller*, by order of the President, also delivered out about fifty stand of Arms, to some Gentlemen of this City, which have not been returned.

That, about the middle of *April* last, the said *Miller* delivered up the Keys of the Magazine to the Governor, and he then left there twenty one barrels and a half of Powder, including the three unsifted, three hundred and forty two new Muskets, lately cleaned, and in complete order, others that wanted but small repairs, and a large number of old Muskets, and uther small Guns, almost uselefs, and many other Articles, which he could not enumerate.

It farther appears to the Committee, from the Depositions of the said *Miller*, and *John Dixon*, Esquire, *Mayor* of this City, that there were in the Magazine (soon after the Powder was said to be taken away) with his Excellency, who there mentioned, that he had taken away fifteen barrels of Powder; They then saw eight Barrels, which they understood was Powder; one being open, appeared to be dust of Powder; and at the same time, they observed that the cleaned Muskets were without Locks; and the said *Miller* says his Excellency rebuked him for taking notice of that Circumstance, and the said *Dixon* said he observed some Persons had been in the Magazine the over Night, as he saw many arms lying in the Yard of it; and his Excellency then told him, he had ordered the Powder to be buried in the Magazine yard, for though it was but Dust, yet as he understood some Persons went in the Magazine for Arms in the Night, with a light, they might set fire to the Powder and injure the Magazine.

Your Committee farther Report, that before they proceeded to examine any Witnesses they waited on his Excellency, to request that he would be pleased to direct the Keeper of the Magazine to give them access thereto, and, having received the Keys three days after their first application, they immediately proceeded to inspect the Magazine, and found therein nineteen Halberts, one hundred and fifty seven Trading Guns in pretty good order, but very indifferent in kind, fifty one Pewter Bafons, eight Camp Kettles, one hundred and eight new Muskets without Locks, about five hundred and twenty seven old Muskets, the barrels very rusty, and the Locks almost uselefs, twelve hundred Cartouch boxes, fifteen hundred Cutlasses with Scabbards, one hundred and seventy Pistol Holsters, one hundred and fifty old Pistols, or thereabouts, with and without Locks, fifty Mallets, two bundles of match Rope, two hundred Cantines, thirty five small Swords in bad order, one Tent and Tent Poles, one Hogshead of Powder

Horns,

Horns, one hundred and twenty seven Bayonets, one hundred Knap-sacks in the Smiths Shop, and that part of the Magazine called the Armory, also one half Barrel of Dust and rotten Powder, one half barrel and a quarter of unsifted Powder, tolerably good, in the Powder Room, that has no communication with the Armory, also five half Barrels of loose Powder buried in a Hole in the Magazine yard, the top of which, (in quantity about two half barrels) was totally destroyed by the late Rains, the rest very damp, but quite found; this, his Excellency acknowledged to your Committee, was buried there by his orders, The deficiency, this Committee suppose, is owing to the fifteen half barrels which Captain *Collins* moved from the Magazine, as acknowledged in the Governor's Message to this House. 353

And your Committee farther report, that the Morning before they entered upon this busines, some Persons, unknown, had broke into the Magazine and taken out Arms, part of which, upon the application of some of the Members of this House, and other Gentlemen, were restored; and finding the Respect paid by the People to the Members of this House, your Committee thought it most likely, to prevent farther depredations, to request some Gentlemen of the Town to guard the Magazine, till application could be made to his Excellency for leave of access thereto, which your Committee immediately did, informing his Lordship of the Steps they had taken therein, which he did not object to.

That the *Doors* and *Windows* of the Magazine now want Repairs, which being done, your Committee are of Opinion that it will be sufficiently secure, it never having proved otherwife since its first erection, now sixty years past, until since the Powder was taken by order of the Governor aforementioned.

Your Committee also proceeded to inquire what Arms and Ammunition had been, from time to time, deposited in the Magazine, and the disbursements thereof, but could obtain no certain Information respecting the same; the late Keeper being out of the Colony and his Predecessor dead; Nor can your Committee find, altho' they have 354 examined several persons most likely to be acquainted with such Facts, and applied personally to his Majesty's Receiver General for that purpose, that any Powder had been lodged in the Magazine from on board the *Rippon*, Man of War, or any other of his Majesty's Ships.

Ordered, that the said Report do lie upon the Table, to be perused by the Members of the House.

A *Petition* of *Cuthbert Bullitt* was presented to the House, and read, setting forth, that the Petitioner is seised in fee of certain Lands on the upperside of *Quantico Creek*, which is a proper and convenient place for a Town; and therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill, for laying out part of the said Land into lots and Streets for a Town, to be called by the Name of *Helensburg*.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill, pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that Mr *Henry Lee* do prepare, and bring in the same.

Mr *Richard Lee* reported from the Committee of public Claims, to whom several Petitions were referred, that the Committee had examined the matters of the said Petitions, and had come to several Resolutions thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz*:

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *James Arbuckle*, Sheriff of the County of *Accomack*, to be allowed the expence which accrued for Castrating and curing *Daniel*, a negro, tried and sentenced by the Court to suffer that Punishment, for attempting to ravish a white Woman, is reaonable; and that the Petitioner ought to be allowed the sum of Seven pounds and ten shillings for the same. 355

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *Edward Wood*, to be allowed a larger sum of Money for his negro man slave *Robin*, executed for felony than Seventy five Pounds, to which he was valued by the Court before whom

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he was tried, is reasonable; the said Slave appearing to have been a very good *Carpenter*, which was unknown to the Court, and that the Petitioner ought to be allowed the sum of one hundred Pounds for the said Slave.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *William Lynn*, who serving as a Lieutenant of Militia in an expedition against the upper *Shawanese* Towns, was, on the second day of *August* last, in an engagement with the Enemy, wounded in the breast and Shoulder, and thereby rendered unable to labour for his support, is reasonable; and that the Petitioner ought to be allowed the sum of thirty pounds for his present relief, and the further sum of thirty pounds per Annum, during his life, as a recompence for the Wounds he received in the Service of this Colony.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *Elizabeth Croley*, whose husband, was killed in the last *Indian* expedition, and who, with her Children, is by his death reduced to great distres, is reasonable; and that the Petitioner ought to be allowed the sum of twenty five Pounds, for their present Relief, and the further sum of ten pounds per Annum, during the term of ten Years, for the maintenance and Education of her said Children.

356 *Resolved*, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *Daniel Lawson* and *George Garland*, Inspectors of Tobacco at *Totuskey* Warehouse, in the County of *Richmond*, to be reimbursed the sum of ten pounds and thirteen shillings, paid by them for a Hogshead of Tobacco lost out of the said Warehouse, is reasonable, and that the Petitioners ought to be reimbursed the said sum of Money.

The *three* first Resolutions of the Committee, being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

The *fourth* Resolution of the Committee being read a second time;

Ordered, that the said Resolution be recommitted to the same Committee.

The subsequent *Resolution* of the Committee, being read a second time.

A *Motion* was made, and the Question being put, that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution.

It passed in the Negative.

Resolved, that the sum of thirty pounds be paid to *William Lynn*, a lieutenant of Militia, wounded in a late expedition against the upper *Shawanese* Towns; and that the sum of thirty pounds per annum be paid to him during his life.

Ordered, that M^r *Richard Lee* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

357 *Resolved*, that a Message be sent to his Majesty's Council, acquainting them, that, since his Excellency the Governor hath been pleased to remove from the Palace, the House are exceedingly apprehensive that the public Arms therein are too much exposed, and beg to be informed whether, in their Opinion, some proper method cannot be taken to secure as well these Arms, as those in the public Magazine.

Ordered, that M^r *Braxton* and M^r *Treasurer* do carry the said Message to the Council.

A *Petition* of sundry Persons of the Community of Christians, called *Baptists*, and other Protestant dissenters, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Toleration proposed by the Bill, ordered at a former Session of General Assembly to be printed and published, not admitting public Worship, except in the day time, is inconsistent with the laws of *England*, as well as with the practice and usage of the primitive Churches, and even of the english Church itself; that the night Season may sometimes be better spared by the Petitioners from the necessary duties of their callings; and that they wish for no indulgencies which may disturb the peace of the Government; and therefore praying the House to take their case into Consideration, and to grant them suitable redrefs.

Ordered, that the said Petition do lie upon the Table.

M^r *Braxton* presented to the House according to order, a Bill for appointing an Agent; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved,

Resolved, that the Bill be read a secon^d time.

A *Petition* of *Robert Pewsey* of the County of *Pittsylvania* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner, in *March 1758*, with his Wife and Child, was taken Prisoner by the *Shawanese* Indians, and carried to their Country, where he remained a long time until he redeemed his liberty; and that returning home he could not find any of his effects, by which he might have subsisted himself and his family, some of them having been destroyed by the enemy, and the residue lost during his captivity; and therefore praying relief.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

A *Petition* of *William Digges*, the younger, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner is seised in fee tail in a Tract of Land, in the Parish of *Drysdale*, in the County of *Caroline*, containing two thousand six hundred and forty four Acres, which, being remote from his Residence, is of little advantage to him, especially as he hath but few Slaves to cultivate it; and therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill to dock the intail, and settle other land and Slaves in lieu thereof.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill, pursuant to the prayer of the said Petition; and that *M^r Nelson* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A *Petition* of sundry inhabitants of that part of the Parish of *Botetourt*, which is in the County of *Fincastle*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the said Parish, being two hundred Miles in length and sixty Miles in Width, is too extensive for one Minister to officiate in; and therefore praying, that the County of *Fincastle* may be one distinct Parish, and that the Money levied on the Petitioners for purchasing a Glebe and building Churches in the County of *Botetourt*, may be refunded.

Ordered, that the said petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Religion; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

M^r Carrington presented to the House according to Order, a Bill to repeal the *Act* of General Assembly, made in the twelfth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled *An A^{d₁} to amend an A^{d₂}, intituled An A^{d₃} for better preservation of the breed of Deer, and preventing unlawful hunting, so far as the same relates to certain Counties*; and the same was received and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a secon^d time.

A Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands in the County of *York*, whereof *Robert Matthews* and *Anne* his Wife are seised, in her Right, and for settling other Lands to the same Uses, was read a secon^d time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to *M^r Digges*, *M^r Nelson*, *M^r Whitinge*, *M^r Burwell*, *M^r Harwood*, and *M^r Langhorne*.

The *order* of the day being read, for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill, to amend the *Act*, intituled *An A^{d₂} for better securing the payment of Levies, and restraint of Vagrants, and for making provision for the poor*;

Resolved, that this House will, upon *Thursday* next, resolve itself into the said Committee.

The other *order* of the day being read;

Resolved, that this House will, tomorrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into Consideration the Governor's Answer to the joint Address of the Council and this House.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, ten of the Clock.

Wednesday.

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 591.

² *Ibid.*, IX, p. 216.

Wednesday, the 14th of June, 15 Geo. III. 1775.

A Petition of Peter Hansbury was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that a negro man Slave of the Petitioner, named Sharper, was committed to the Gaol of the County of Stafford, charged with an attempt to poison one of his Master's family, where he remained five Months, as no Court was held for the trial of him, there being no Sheriff in the County by which means the said Slave was frost bitten, so that he died; and therefore praying, that the Petitioner may be allowed the value of the said Slave, to be paid by the Public.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

Several other Members, having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and subscribed the Test, took their places in the House.

Ordered, that Mr Bland be added to the Committee for Religion, the Committee of Privileges and Elections, the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, and the Committee of Trade.

Ordered, that Mr Rutherford be added to the Committee for Religion, the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, and the Committee of public Claims.

Mr Digges reported from the Committee of Privileges and Elections, to whom the Petition of Mr James Henry, complaining of an undue Election and Return of Mr Isaac Smith, to serve as a Burgess in this present General Assembly, for the County of Accomack, was referred, that the Committee had partly examined the matter of the said Petition and have come to several Resolutions, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee that the Petitioner and sitting Member be at liberty to examine before John Smith, William Selby, William Vere and William Williams, Gentlemen, or any three, such Witneffes as are unable to attend the Committee, touching the Freehold of any Person who voted at the said Election, and to return the Depositions to the Clerk of this House.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Persons, who voted at the said Election, whose Freeholds are questioned either by the Petitioner or sitting Member, be examined before the Committee.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee that the Petitioner do, by himself or his Agent, within one Month from this time, deliver to the sitting Member or his Agent, lists of the Persons intended by the Petitioner to be objected to, who voted for the sitting Member, giving, in the said Lists, the several Heads of objection, and distinguishing the same against the names of the Voters excepted to; and that the sitting Member do, by himself or his Agent, within the same time, deliver the like Lists, on his part, to the Petitioner or his Agent.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the subje&t Matter of the said Petition be heard before the Committee on the tenth day of the next sitting of this Assembly.

The said Resolutions, being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon agreed to by the House.

362 A Petition of the inhabitants of the Borough of Norfolk was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that a bridge built by Subscription over the Creek, which divides the main Street, leading to the public Wharf, from Catharine Street, in the said Borough, had fallen down; and that the said Bridge, whilst it stood, was very convenient to the Petitioners, and many others; and therefore praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill, to enable the Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council of the said Borough to assess a tax on the inhabitants thereof, for building and keeping in Repair

a bridge over the Creek aforesaid, and also such other Bridge or Bridges, for the Convenience of the said Inhabitants, as may be now built or may be thought necessary to be built hereafter.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matters thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A Petition of the Freeholders and other inhabitants of the Borough of *Norfolk*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, setting forth, that the Petitioners conceive the Act of General Assembly, made in the twenty second Year of the Reign of King *George* the Second, intituled *An Act concerning highways Mill Dams and Bridges*, as to the Provision made thereby for the laying out clearing and repairing Roads, to be unequal and oppressive, and particularly detrimental to the Petitioners; and therefore praying, that the inhabitants of the said Borough may be exempted from all kinds of Service upon any highway or Road, without the limits thereof; and that the expence of laying out clearing and repairing the Streets Causeways and Lanes in the said Borough may be defrayed by a Tax, to be affessed upon the said inhabitants; and also,³⁶³

A Petition of several freeholders and other inhabitants of the County of *Norfolk*, in opposition thereto.

Were severally presented to the House, and read.

Ordered, that the said Petitions be severally referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

A Petition of *James Scott*, junior, of the County of *Fauquier*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner is seised in fee-tail of and in a certain Tract of Land, on *Carters Run*, in the Parish of *Leeds*, in the County of *Fauquier*, which by the Patent is supposed to contain two thousand eight hundred and twenty Acres, but, on a resurvey which the Petitioner was obliged to make in consequence of notice to do so, is found to include within the bounds thereof Seven hundred and ten Acres of surplus land, to secure the title to which he had been put to a Considerable expence; and that the Petitioner is seised in fee simple of four hundred Acres of Land, on *Cedar Run*, in the said County, which is improved and of equal value to the said surplus land; and that he is also seised in fee simple of three hundred and ten Acres of Land which adjoin the said seven hundred and ten Acres, and added thereto, would make a convenient settlement for a younger Son; and praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill, to dock the intail of the seven hundred and ten Acres of surplus land, and vest the same in the Petitioner in fee simple, and to settle the said four hundred Acres, on *Cedar Run*, in lieu thereof.³⁶⁴

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill, pursuant to the Prayer of the said Petition; and that *M^r Henry Lee* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A Message from the Council by *M^r Blair*:

M^r Speaker,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act¹ to enable Persons living in other Countries to dispose of their Estates in this Colony, with more ease and convenience, and for other purposes therein mentioned, without any Amendment; and also,

*The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act² to confirm the titles to sundry Houses and Lots of Land, whereof *Nathaniel Walthoe*, Esquire, died seised, to the purchasers thereof, without any Amendment; and also,*

*The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act² to dock the intail of four hundred Acres of land whereof *Edward Harwood* and *Elizabeth* his Wife are seised and settling other lands and Slaves in lieu thereof and for other purposes therein mentioned, without any Amendment; and also,*

The

¹ Hening's, IX. p. 207.

² Not recorded as a law.

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act¹ to vest certain intailed Lands therein mentioned in *Wilson Miles Cary*, Esquire, in fee simple, and to settle other Lands in lieu thereof, without any Amendment; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Reslove, for paying several sums of Money and an Annuity to *William Shepherd*; and also,

⁸⁶⁵ The Council have agreed to the Reslove, for paying a sum of Money and an Annuity to *Abram Field*; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Reslove, for paying a sum of Money and an Annuity to *John McKenny*.

And then the Meffenger withdrew.

An ingrossed Bill, to dock the intail of certain lands, whereof *James Rofcow* is feised, and for other purposes therein mentioned was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pafs; and that the title be; *An Act to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof James Rofcow is feised, and for other purposes therein mentioned.*

Ordered, that M^r *Mercer* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

M^r *Henry Lee* prefented to the Houfe, according to Order, a Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *James Scott*, the younger, is feised, and for settling other lands, in lieu thereof; and the fame was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a fecond time.

A Petition of *James George, Thomas Flowers, John Pemberton, Elisha Dyer, James Murphy, Henry Mitchell, and Laurence Burkholder* of the County of *Pittsylvania*, was presented to the Houfe, and read; setting forth, that, at the time certain perſons of the name of *Cook*, accused of forging the Treasury Bills, were apprehended by the Governor's Warrant, the Sherif of the ſaid County imprefed ſeveral Horses and Guns of the Petitioners for the uſe of the Guard who attended the Prisoners, and that the Horses were much damaged, and the Guns loft, and therefore praying the Houfe to make them ſatisfaction.

⁸⁶⁶ Ordered, that the ſaid Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof and report the fame, with their Opinion thereupon to the Houfe.

A Petition of *Ezekiel Field* was prefented to the Houfe and read, ſetting forth, that the Petitioner, the laſt Year accompanying his father the late Colonel *John Field* to the *Kanhawa River*, in order to make a ſettlement there was taken prisoner by the *Shawaneſe Indians*, who treated him cruelly; that his father who was ſlain in the late engagement with the *Indians* at the mouth of the ſaid River, after he had given ſignal proofs of his bravery, having made his Will before that Expedition, ſupposing the Petitioner, who ſtill remained in Captivity, to be dead, charged the Estate devifed to him in caſe he ſhould return with the payment of his debts, which were ſo conſiderable as to be nearly equal to the value of it, ſo that the provision made for the Petitioner is a very scanty one, and he is reduced to neceſſitous Circumſtances; and therefore praying relief.

Ordered, that the ſaid Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the fame, with their Opinion thereupon to the Houfe.

M^r *Henry Lee* prefented to the Houfe according to Order a Bill for eſtablishing the town of *Helenburg*; and the fame was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a fecond time.

M^r *Mercer* reported from the Committee to whom the Bill for raiſing a Capital ſum of forty thouſand Pounds by ſubſcription, and eſtablishing a Company for opening and extending the navigation of the River *Potowmack*, was committed, that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made ſeveral Amendments thereunto, which they had directed

¹ Not recorded as a law.

directed him to report to the House; and he read the report in his place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendments, in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendments were once read throughout and then a second time, one by one, and, upon the question severally put thereupon, were agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Bill with the Amendments be engrossed.

Richard Bland, esquire, one of the delegates from this Colony to the General Congress at *Philadelphia*, acquainted the House, that a Petition of several Persons in that part of the County of *Augusta*, which is on the West side of the *Allegany* Mountain, addressed to the President and Gentlemen of the Continental Congress having been presented to them, setting forth, that the Petitioners had grievously suffered by the devastations of the *Indians* in the late war; that, to avoid Captivity by an Enemy so insidious cruel and savage many of the Petitioners having been obliged to desert their habitations, and retire to Forts, so that they could not till the Ground, now wanted bread, and supported themselves chiefly by the spontaneous productions of the Earth; that the promising appearance of a plentiful Crop had encouraged them to bear these afflictions without repining, and to hope for better times; but that those fair prospects would probably be delusive, unless effectual Measures were pursued to avert the Calamities with which they were threatened; that lord *Dunmore*, after the expedition against the *Indians* promised to meet them at *Pittsburg* in the spring, and conclude a peace, and then restore the Hostages, delivered to him, and discharge the Captives; that the *Indians* had been uneasy for some time because the treaty was deferred; that the *Delawares* particularly were very much dissatisfied, and repented that they had not joined the *Shawanese* in the War, since they found the white People were not to be depended on; that the Commandant in that quarter for Government had instructions, as the Petitioners were informed, to assemble the *Indians* at that place, so soon as he could, when the hostages and prisoners would be delivered up, and that the Petitioners, unable to discover the design of Government, apprehended every evil from the threats of it, to enfranchise the Slaves, on condition they would rebel against their Masters; and therefore praying the Congress, to which application was made because it was thought the Provincial Assemblies could not provide adequate remedies early enough, to take the Case of the Petitioners into Consideration; and appoint Commissioners from this Colony and *Pennsylvania* to attend the meeting of the *Indians*, and cooperate with Government for the public good, or, if the latter should fail to nominate Persons for that purpose, proceed without them in the treaty which is absolutely necessary: the Congress referred the said Petition to the Delegates of this Colony and *Pennsylvania*, who having considered the same and being of Opinion, that the matter ought to be communicated to this House, and submitted to their Consideration, Mr *Bland* was directed by his Colleagues to lay the same before the House; which he thus did with all convenient expedition.

The said information being immediately taken into Consideration;

Resolved, that *Thomas Walker, James Wood, Andrew Lewis, John Walker and Adam Stephen* Esquires, be appointed Commissioners to ratify the treaty of Peace between this Colony and the *Indians*.

Ordered, that a Bill be brought in pursuant to the said Resolution; and that Mr *Treasurer*, and Mr *Dandridge* do prepare and bring in the same.

Ordered, that it be an instruction to the Gentlemen appointed to prepare and bring in the said Bill, that they have power to receive a Claufe or Claufes, to empower the said Commissioners to join with such Commissioners as may be appointed by the Assembly of *Pennsylvania*, in such means as shall be judged most proper for conciliating the friendship of the *Indians*, and perpetuating the Peace now subsisting between the said *Indians* and the Colony.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to examine the enrolled Bills and Resolves.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Digges*, Mr *Henry Lee*, Mr *Mercer*, Mr *Jones*, Mr *Holt*, Mr *Carrington*, Mr *Brooke*, Mr *Banister*, Mr *John Nicholas*, and Mr *Munford*.

Ordered,

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill for the ease and relief of the People, by paying the Burgeses Wages in Money; and that M^r *Henry Lee* do prepare, and bring in the same.

M^r *Cary* reported from the Committee, appointed to inquire into the Causes of the late disturbances and Commotions, that the Committee had inquired accordingly, and had directed him to report the Causes of the said Disturbances and Commotions as they appeared to them to the House; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table, where the same was read and is as followeth, *viz*:

370 It appears to your Committee by the Testimony of Doctor *William Pasteur* that on Friday Morning the twenty second of April last there was a Commotion in the City of *Williamsburg* occasioned by the Governor's removing some Powder from the public Magazine. That a common Hall being assembled, he attended, An Address was presented to his Excellency the Governor and an Answer received as published in the *Virginia Gazette*. That the People at the Request of the Corporation retired peaceably to their Habitations, That during the Commotion, the Captains *Foy*, *Montague* and *Collins* walked the main Street unmolested. That in the morning of the twenty third of April the said *Pasteur* attending a Patient at the Palace, accidentally met with his Excellency the Governor, who introduced a Conversation relative to what had passed the preceding day, and seemed greatly exasperated at the Peoples having been under Arms, when the said *Pasteur* observed that it was done in a Hurry and Confusion, that most of the People were convinced they were wrong. His Lordship then proceeded to make Use of several rash expressions and said that tho' he did not think himself in Danger yet he understood some injury or insult was intended to be offered to the Captains *Foy* and *Collins*, which he should consider as done to himself as those Gentlemen acted intirely by his particular Directions. That his Lordship then swore by the living God that if a Grain of Powder was burnt at Captain *Foy* or Captain *Collins*, or if any Injury or insult was offered to himself, or either of them, that he would declare Freedom to the Slaves, and reduce the City of *Williamsburg* to Ashes. His Lordship then mentioned setting up the Royal Standard, but did not say that he would actually do it, but said he believed, if he did he should have a Majority of white People and all the Slaves on the side of Government, that he had once fought for the *Virginians*, and that, by GOD, he would let them see that he could fight against them, and declared that in a short Time, he could depopulate the whole Country. That his Excellency desired the said *Pasteur* immediately to communicate this to the Speaker and other Gentlemen of the Town, for that there was not an Hour to spare, adding also that if *Finnie* and *George Nicholas* continued to go at large, what he had said, would, from some Misconduct of theirs, be carried into Execution. That the said *Pasteur* immediately communicated this matter to the Speaker and several other Gentlemen of the Town, and it soon became publicly known. In Consequence of which two of the principal Gentlemen of the City sent their Wives and Children into the Country. That his Excellency at other times more than once did say, he should not carry these Plans into Execution unles he was attacked. That the Inhabitants of *Williamsburg* were soon after informed by an Express from *Fredericksburg* that the People in that part of the Country were in Motion towards this City. That the next Morning after this Report, the said *Pasteur* attending a Patient at the Palace again met accidentally with the Governor, who declared to the said *Pasteur* that if a large Body of People came below *Ruffin's Ferry* (a place about thirty Miles from this City) that he would immediately enlarge his plan, and carry it into Execution, but said that he should not regard a small number of Men, adding he then had two hundred Muskets loaded in the Palace. The said *Pasteur* faith, that, to the best of his knowledge, at the time *Lady Dunmore* and Family removed from *Williamsburg* on board the *Fowey* Man of War then laying at *York* the inhabitants of this City were very peaceable. It appears to your Committee from the Testimony of *Benjamin Waller* that the morning after the Powder was removed from the public Magazine, the People in the City of *Williamsburg* were much alarmed and assembled some with and others without Arms, but when, the Corporation reported the Governor's

Governor's answer to their Address, they, by the persuasion of the Magistrates, and other principal Gentlemen of the Town dispersed and were quiet, except in the Evening, when a Report prevailed that the Marines were landed, and intended to Town, they expressed great uneasiness and went with their Arms to the Magazine to guard it, but soon dispersed except a few who acted as patrols that Night. That the next Day Doctor *Pasteur* came to the said *Waller's* House, and informed him of the Governor's Threatening that if himself his Family or Captain *Collins* were insulted, he would declare liberty to the Slaves, and lay the Town in Ashes, and that the Governor had desired him to communicate this his Declaration to the Magistrates of the City, for that there was not an Hour to loose. That these Declarations gave the said *Waller* and the other Inhabitants of the Town great uneasiness. That several Days afterwards his Excellency came to the said *Waller's* House on some private business, and in the Course of Conversation, his Lordship said that Captain *Collins* had only taken fifteen half Barrels of Powder from the Magazine that some was not good and other barrels not full but that he believed that one whole barrel might be got out of three half barrels, whereupon he said *Waller* took the liberty to mention to his lordship that he was very sorry to tell his Excellency that he had lost the Confidence of the People not so much for having taken the Powder as for the declaration he made of raising and freeing the Slaves to which he answered that he did say so and made no secret of it and that he would do that or any thing else to have defended himself in case he had been attacked. That his Lordship further observed that some Slaves had offered him their Service at the time the *Hanover* Men were coming down but that he had sent them away. The said *Benjamin Waller* further says that several young Gentlemen of the Town and others had formed themselves into a Company by the name of an independent Company to learn the Military exercise and elected the Colonel of the Militia for their Captain and that they usually mustered once a Week. That when his Excellency returned from the *Indian* Expedition last fall many of the said Company waited upon him in their uniform to congratulate his Lordship on his Return but the said *Waller* heard they were coolly received. That the said *Waller* says that he never heard of any Powders' being lodged in the Magazine from the *Rippon* Man of War until since the removal of the Powder and then only from Report of the truth of which he doth not know. It also appears to your Committee from the Testimony of *John Randolph*, Esquire, Attorney General, of the City of *Williamsburg* that the Morning after the Removal of the Powder many of the People were under Arms at the Court House. That he does not recollect he heard the Governor expressly say he would proclaim Freedom to the Slaves, but is well satisfied such was his Lordship's intention, if it had been necessary for him to take up Arms in defence of his Person. That he does not recollect he ever saw any of the People under Arms, (except on the Removal of the Powder) but the volunteer Company, when exercising, which Company had been formed a considerable time before the disturbance happened. That he thought *Lady Dunmore* had no reason but the Timidity of her Sex, to suspect any Injury would be done her or her Family, nor did he know that *Lord Dunmore* had just cause to apprehend Danger, unless he gave Credit to the Reports conveyed to him, which were of such a Nature as to justify an Opinion that his Person was not safe. That he is of Opinion, and that he informed the Governor so, when he, with other Gentlemen, waited upon him, with the Address of the House, that his Person was in no danger. That his Lordship was almost every Day at his the said *Randolph's* House, distant above a quarter of a Mile from the Palace, and in particular the Evening of his Departure, and that his Lordship received no insult as he knows of, in passing to and from thence. The said *Randolph* says that he understood from the Governor, in case armed People came to *Williamsburg*, he would fix up the Royal Standard, to distinguish the Friends of Government from its foes, and that if Negroes on that Occasion offered their Service they would be received. That the Governor informed him some Negroes (by one of his Servants) had offered their Service, but he ordered his Servant to bid them go about their Business. That the Morning after the Removal of the Powder the said *Randolph* saw Captain *Collins* Captain *Foy*, and he believes Captain *Stretch* pass through the People unmolested.

lefted. It also appears by the Testimony of *John Dixon*, Esquire, Mayor of the City of *Williamsburg*, That in the Opinion of the Inhabitants the Militia of the City being on a different footing and having heard of an independent Company established at *Norfolk*, were desirous of forming one in *Williamsburg*. That such Company was accordingly formed and although he does not know the Governor was ever present when they were exercised, the said *Dixon* never heard he disapproved of it, that his Honor the President, while the Governor was out on the *Indian Expedition*, directed the Keeper of the Public Magazine, to furnish the Company with Muskets. That a Committee was chosen in the City agreeable to the directions of the Congress, but not to Act as he knew of, under the Committee. That upon the Governor's return from the *Indian Expedition*, one of the Company waited upon his Excellency to inform him the Company intended to pay their Compliments to him the next Morning before the Palace, if agreeable to Lady *Dunmore*, who was then indisposed, but his Lordship being out of the way, the person who went left his Compliments of the above import. That the next Morning the said *Dixon* as Captain with part of the Company, drew up in Palace Street and paid the usual Compliments. That his Lordship did not come out to meet them, but some time afterwards there was a Message delivered by Mr *Blair* from his Excellency, that he would have done himself the pleasure of waiting upon them if they had staid a little longer, as he did not expect they would have finished their Exercise so soon. That the Morning after the Powder was removed, many of the inhabitants being much alarmed and greatly incensed against Captain *Foy* and Captain *Collins*, assembled at the Court House under Arms but does not believe nor has he heard any injury or insult was intended to the Governor. That some time after the Governor's answer to the Address of the Corporation was read, the People, upon the interposition of the Magistrates and other Gentlemen, were satisfied and returned Home in quiet. That after the Governor had declared what Captain *Collins* had done was by his order, their resentment against Captain *Collins* subsided. That the same Evening the Powder was removed, a Report prevailed that a number of armed Men from Captain *Collins*' Schooner had landed at *Burwells Ferry* about four Miles from *Williamsburg* with design as was supposed to remove the Arms from the Magazine, whereupon many of the Inhabitants repaired to the Magazine to prevent such design being executed but by the advice of some Gentlemen they all dispersed except such as had patroled that Night. That the Inhabitants appeared to be in perfect tranquility til a Report was spread by his Excellency's throwing out some threats respecting the Slaves, when there seemed to be great uneasiness but nothing more was done but doubling the usual Patrole. That after the Alarm was over the first day, he remembers to have seen Captain *Foy* and Captain *Montague* walk the Streets and he believes without insult and frequently saw them, Captain *Collins* and other Officers do the same without their Swords, unmolested by the Inhabitants.

It also appears by the Testimony of *Joseph Hutchings* Colonel of the Militia of the Borough of *Norfolk*, that some years ago the inhabitants judging it would be a means of their greater Security, proposed raising an independent Company, that by their being more regularly trained, they might be more capable of acting upon an Emergency. That some time afterwards his Excellency Lord *Dunmore* being at *Norfolk*, the said *Hutchings* informed him of the intention of the inhabitants and asked his advice how to act as to granting Commissions, the Company intending to choose their own Officers that his Lordship highly commended the proposal advised the said *Hutchings* to encourage and grant Commissions to such Officers as might be chosen and expressed his Wishes that the example might be followed throughout the Country; that about two Years afterwards his Lordship was again at *Norfolk* when the Company was completely formed and Regimented and having drawn them up his Lordship marched through the lines in order to review them and again expressed great satisfaction.

Your Committee then proceeded to examine several Gentlemen Merchants natives of *Great Britain* who reside in different parts of this Colony respecting the disposition of its People and its internal peace, the Causes of the late Commotions and the progress thereof,

thereof, and it appears to your Committee from the Depositions by them taken, as follows:

It appears from the Testimony of *Hugh Hamilton* of the County of *Westmoreland* that the Courts of this Colony have always proceeded in criminal Businefs as usual, but declined trying civil Caufes immediately on the lapse of the Fee bill which together with the nonexportation Agreement was in his Opinion, the Caufe of stopping that Businefs rather than an inclination of withholding Justice, his Acquaintances having the same inclination to pay their Debts as before the stoppage of the Courts. That Committees have been chosen within these twelve Months and independent Companies formed in his and the neighboring Counties about the Month of *February* laft, for the Defence of the Colony, and that he never heard they were deſigned to protect the Committees. That in his County the Gentlemen, have been at proper pains to preserve Order. And it has been recommended to the Militia to acquire a knowledge of the military Exercife. That the people within his Acquaintance have been very orderly and that he never saw any Commotion before the Powder was taken from the Magazine. That there was an alarm concerning the Slaves prior to this transaſtion, which was greatly increased by the Report of the Governor's intention to declare them free. That he never diſcovered the ſmalleft inclination in any of the Inhabitants to be independant of *Great Britain*, but on the contrary a moſt eager deſire for a Connection as it ſtood prior to the Acts of Parliament imposing Taxes on *America*, and he is perſuaded a Redrefs of the Grievances complained of would eſtablish a perfect Tranquility throughout this Colony, and produce a Reconciliation with the parent State. 378

It appears from the Testimony of *Thomas Mitchell* of the County of *Louisa* that the loſs of the Fee Bill is generally aſſigned and he believes, was the immediate Caufe of ſtopping the civil proceedings in the Courts of Juſtice, but apprehends their not being refumed is owing to the commercial Mode of Oppoſition. That no independent Company was formed in the faid County until the eighth of *May 1775.* or thereabouts, nor a Committee chosen until ſome Months after the Association entered into and it is his opinion that the faid Company was raifed with a view to put the Colony into a ſtate of Defence, but believes it would affiſt their Committee, if called on. That no Commotions have happened in the faid County, but that the Governor's Declaration to give Freedom to the Slaves greatly inflamed the Minds of thoſe who believed it, but does not think that belief was general. That he does not think the Colony wish to be independent of *Great Britain*, and is ſatified a Redrefs of the Grievances complained of, would reſtore Tranquility and Reconciliation.

It appears from the Testimony of *James Lyle* and *Robert Donald* of the County of *Cheſterfield* that the Reaſon aſſigned for ſtopping the Courts in civil proceedings, was the expiration of the Fee Bill, and they are of opinion, that their refuſing to proceed now, is owing to the adopted Mode of commercial Oppoſition. That no independent Company was formed in *Cheſterfield* till a few Weeks ago, and that they were intended for the general Defence of the Country, and not, as they know, deſigned for the Protection of the Committee, or to be under their Direction, but they believe they would protect the Committee if required. That the inhabitants were quiet and peaceable prior to the Removal of the Powder, and were greatly alarmed and exasperated at the Governor's Declaration of giving Freedom to the Slaves, ſince which uncommon diligence has been uſed in training the independent Company and the Militia to Arms, but the People have always behaved themſelves orderly, paying the greateſt Regard to the prudent Advice of their Officers. That they have no reaſon to believe the people wish an independance of *Great Britain*, and firmly believe a Redrefs of the preſent Grievances would eſtablish a general Tranquility throughout this Colony and a Reconciliation with *Great Britain*.

It appears from the Testimony of *Thomas Hodge* and *James Robiſon* of *King George County*, *Charles Yates* and *Henry Mitchell* of *Spotsylvania*, and *Robert Gilchrist* and *Patrick Kennon* of *Caroline*, That the Expiration of the Fee Bill was the immediate Caufe of ſtopping the Courts in civil Caufes, That it has been ſince conſidered as a politi-cal

cal means of obtaining redrefs of Grievances, by interesting the British Merchants, who have property here, in our behalf, and that since it has been determined to discontinue the Exports, it has been thought necessary, but the Courts proceed in criminal Cases as usual. That Committees have been established to inforce the Resolutions of the
 380 General Congrefs, and independent Companies formed to learn the Use of Arms, at different Periods. In *Spotsylvania* sometime laſt Winter, in *Caroline*, in *February* or *March* laſt, and in *King George*, ſince the laſt Colony Convention in *March*. They don't know that they were established to protect the Committees, but believe the defence of the Colony was the firſt and principal Motive. That ſome of the independent Company of *Spotsylvania* have acted under the direction of their Committee, but the *Caroline Company* refuſed to inliſt unleſs they were to be ſolely under the Direction of Officers of their own choosing. That there never was any Commotions among the People, till after the Powder was removed from the Magazine, in Conſequence of that tranſaction there was a great Aſſemblage of armed Men at *Fredericksburg* and adjacent places, but they were very orderly and peaceable, and upon the advice of a Council they appointed, and ſome of the Delegates of this Colony, they all retired to their reſpective Homes. That about this time they understood the Governor had made a Declaration of Freedom to the Slaves, which was not generally believed, but as far as it gained Credit, it tended greatly to inflame the People. That they do not believe any part of this Colony wiſh an independence of *Great Britain*, though they cannot undertake to judge of the views of individuals, and they hope and think a redrefs of the preſent Grievances would reſtore Tranquility here and produce a Reconciliation with the parent State.

It appears from the Testimony of *Archibald Ritchie* of the County of *Effex* that the cause generally affiſed for ſtopping the proceedings of the Courts in civil Caufes, the criminal proceedings going on as usual, was the Expiration of the Fee Bill, but that
 381 he believes the meaſure was politiſcally adopted for carrying more effectually into Execution the purpoſes of the Aſſociation. That the Voluntier Company in the County of *Effex* was formed about three Weeks ago, not merely for protecting the Committees, but believes they would be ſo if required. That previous to the Seizure of the Powder the State of the Colony as far as his obſervation extended was a general Acquiefce in the Reſolves of the provincial and General Congrefs, and that in Conſequence thereof, no Commotion happened in that County. That he does not know of any one that wiſhes Independence of *Great Britain*, but on his Oath cannot ſay there are none ſuch. That he has not the leaſt doubt, if the Grievances complained of were redreſſed a perfect tranquility would be eſtablished between them *Great Britain* and the Colonies.

It appears from the Testimony of *Charles Duncan* of the County of *Chesterfield* near the Towns of *Petersburg* and *Blandford*, that the loſs of the Fee Bill, in his Opinion, was the immediate Caufe of the Stop to the Proceedings in the Courts in civil Caufes, the criminal going on as usual. That a Voluntier Company in the ſaid County was formed ſome time after the Convention at *Richmond*, and in his Opinion ſolely for putting the Country into a poſture of Defence without any Regard to the protection of the Committee. That the ſtate of the Colony before the Removal of the Powder, was peaceable and orderly, and a ſtrict Compliance with the Reſolves of the continental and provincial Congress, was he thinks the Caufe of maintaining that good order ſo little to be expeſted in a Country deprived of ſo eſſential a part of its laws. That the removal of the Powder certainly occaſioned the Commotions complained of, and he believes ſo far as the Governor's declarations gained Credit, they contributed to thoſe Disturbances but there were none ſuch in the Neighborhood where he lives. That he never heard any Person wiſh any independence of *Great Britain*, and is clearly of Opinion a Redrefs of the preſent Grievances would immediately produce a hearty Reconciliation.

It appears by the Testimony of *Archibald Bryce* of the County of *Henrico* that the Expiration of the Fee Bill was the Reaſon affiſed by the Court for ſtopping the Proceedings in civil Cafes, the Criminal going on as usual, and he believes the commercial Mode of opposition is the reaſon why the Buſineſſ of the Courts is not reſumed. That the

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Suspension in civil proceedings took place in *June 1774*, and sometime in the fall a Committee was chosen agreeable to an Article of the General Association. That the independent Company of *Henrico* has not been formed above six Weeks, and he believes the principal Design of their Institution was to put the Colony in a proper state of Defence. That he knew of no Commotions in the County before the seizure of the Powder, and as very few took up Arms upon that occasion, he was informed that at the request of one of the Representatives of the County, they returned to their Habitations. That he thinks, as far as the Governor's declaration gained Credit with the People it served to irritate their Minds, and might possibly be a means of continuing the Commotions in the Country. That he believes the Colony in General do not wish an Independance, and that a Redress of Grievances would establish tranquility and produce a Reconciliation.

It appears by the Testimony of *Thomas Montgomery* of the County of *Prince William*, That previous to the Powders being seized, Committees of Correspondence and of Observation to carry into effect the Resolutions of the Congress, Voluntier Companies were formed, Military Discipline was taught, Arms and Ammunition were industriously procured. That upon the Report of the Governor's having seized the Powder, many People marched to *Fredericksburg*, where, upon a Meeting of several Counties, it was determined in Consultation, they should return to their respective Homes. That the Court proceeds in Criminal Cafes. In Civil Cafes Proceedings are stopped, owing as he thinks to the expiration of the Fee Bill, but not to the determination against imports and Exports, which he thinks did not necessarily produce that effect: Having observed the same inclination in the People to do Justice to their Creditors as usual, he thinks the above Steps do not proceed from an inclination to withhold Justice. That no other Commotions or disturbances have happened in the County but what were produced by the alarm of seizing the Powder, and these subsided soon and the People returned to their own Habitations: That the political Measures are adopted by all Classes of Men. That the independent Company was formed in that County about *September*, and its design was to protect the Colony, in General, and the County in particular, and that he has heard it observed, this institution would aid the Execution of the Resolutions of the Committee, That he believes few, if any Person, in the Colony wish an independence of *Great Britain*; but on the Contrary is of Opinion that a Redress of Grievances would establish Tranquility here and a perfect Reconciliation with the Mother Country, as he thinks they entertain not a desire, but of dependance on the Mother Country on Constitutional Principles.

It appears by the Testimony of *Archibald Govan, Thomas Evans, John Johnson and George Braikenridge* of the County of *Hanover*, That Proceedings in Criminal Cafes went on as usual. That all civil law proceedings, except motions against Sheriffs and other Public Officers were stopped in *June 1774*. In *November* a Committee, in conformity to a Regulation of the Congress, was chosen, to carry into execution the American Association, an Independent Company enlisted, but not embodied. That for the interruption of Suits in civil Cafes, they assign the expiration of the Fee Bill as the Principal cause, and do not attribute that Measure, to the adoption of the Commercial opposition, as this Political Plan took place, some Months after the Courts had stopped their Proceedings. That as to Commotions they say, none have occurred except in one instance, which proceeded from the Governor's seizing the Powder, which was heightened and increased by his threatening to enfranchise the Slaves; That those Causes induced the Independent Company to choose their Officers and march out about twenty Miles towards *Williamsburg*, but how they conducted themselves on their March they can give no Information. That they think the Independent Companies were formed to put the Country into a state of defence, yet they suppose they would have aided the Committee. That this Colony in their Opinion desires not an independence of *Great Britain*, and that a Redress of the present Grievances would reestablish Tranquility, and produce a Reconciliation with the Parent State.

It appears to your Committee from the Testimony of *Andrew Sprowle, Archibald Campbell and James Ingram* of the County of *Norfolk* and *Samuel Donaldson* of the ³⁸⁵ County

County of *Nansemond*, That in these Counties the Courts as usual proceed in Criminal Cases. For the Causes of stopping the Proceedings in civil suits, they assign the expiration of the Fee Bill as the primary one, but as a secondary Cause, they think this Measure was adopted to carry the Purposes of the Association more effectually into execution, which, by distressing the Merchantile part of the British Nation, was intended to interest them in favour of the Colony and to produce in the end an Accommodation. That the Town of *Norfolk* as yet, has no independent Company but one formed before the existence of Committees, with the approbation of the Governor, and under his Commission; in *Nansemond* County an independent Company was formed in *May* last, not for the avowed purpose of protecting Committees, but in Conformity to the direction of the last Convention. That before the Seizure of the Powder a general acquiescence under the Resolutions of the General and Provincial Congress, marked the political Character of this Colony and in the above mentioned Counties no Commotions were excited by this Conduct of the Governors, since in neither did the Report, that an Insurrection was intended by the Slaves, produce that Effect. That they think it the universal wish, to have a Constitutional dependance on *Great Britain*; and that a Redress of Grievances will immediately establish Tranquility and be productive of a Reconciliation with the Parent State.

Ordered, that the said Report do lie upon the Table, to be perused by the Members of the House.

M^r *Aylett* reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill, to vest certain intailed Lands, in the County of *King William*, in *John West*, Gentleman, in fee simple, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was committed, that the Committee had examined the Allegations of the Bill, and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had gone through the Bill and made several Amendments thereunto, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendments, in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendments were once read throughout, and then a second time, one by one, and, upon the Question severally put thereupon, were agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Bill, with the Amendments be engrossed.

M^r *Henry Lee* presented to the House, according to Order, a *Bill* for the ease and relief of the People, by paying the Burgees Wages in Money; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

A *Bill* to continue an Act to make provision for the support and maintenance of Ideots, Lunatics, and other Persons of unsound Minds was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to M^r *Treasurer*, M^r *Mercer*, and M^r *Braxton*.

M^r *Braxton* presented to the House, according to Order, a *Bill* to empower the Vestry of the Parish of *Saint John*, in the County of *King William*, to sell the Glebe of the said Parish, and for other purposes therein mentioned; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend an Act, intituled *An Act¹ to regulate the inoculation of the small Pox, within this Colony*; and that M^r *Henry Lee*, and M^r *Broadwater* do prepare, and bring in the same.

An engrossed *Bill*, for further continuing an Act, intituled *An Act² for appointing a Treasurer*, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *an Act for further continuing and amending an Act, intituled An Act for appointing a Treasurer*.

Ordered, that M^r *Jones* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

A *Bill* for appointing an Agent was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to M^r *Bland*, M^r *Treasurer*, M^r *Braxton*, M^r *Cary*, M^r *Digges*, M^r *Jones*, and M^r *Nelson*.

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¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 371.

² *Ibid.*, VII, p. 466.

A *Petition* of *Peter Pelham* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the annual Salary of forty Pounds, and twenty five Pounds, were granted to the Petitioner, as public Gaoler and Organist, at the last Session of General Assembly; and praying that the same may be Continued.

Resolved, that the sum of forty Pounds per Annum be paid to *Peter Pelham*, keeper of the public Gaol, as his Salary, to continue to the end of the next Session of General Assembly.

Ordered, that Mr *Digges* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Resolved, that the sum of twenty five Pounds per Annum be paid to *Peter Pelham* for his Salary, as Organist, to continue till the end of the next General Assembly.

Ordered, that Mr *Digges* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence. ³⁸³

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill for dissolving the Vestry of the Parish of *Frederick*, in the County of *Frederick*; and that Mr *Wood* do prepare, and bring in the same.

The *order* of the day being read, for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill for appointing Commissioners, to settle the Accounts of the Militia, lately drawn out into actual Service, and for making provision for paying the same;

Resolved, that this House, will, tomorrow, resolve itself into the said Committee.

The other *order* of the Day being read;

Resolved, that this House, will, Tomorrow, Resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into Consideration the Governor's Answer to the joint Address of the Council and this House.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, ten of the Clock.

Thursday, the 15th of June. 15 Geo. III. 1775.

MR *Treasurer* reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill to continue an Act, intituled *An Act to make provision for the support and maintenance of Ideots, Lunatics, and other Persons of unsound Minds*, was committed, that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made several Amendments thereunto, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered the Bill with the Amendments, in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendments were once read throughout, and then, a second time, one by one, and, upon the Question severally put thereupon, were agreed to by the House. ³⁸⁹

Ordered, that the Bill, with the Amendments, be engrossed.

A *Message* from the Council by Mr *Blair*:

Mr *Speaker*,

I am commanded by the Council to acquaint this House, that the Council do desire a present free conference with this House, in the Conference Chamber, on the subject of your Message relative to the securing the public Arms.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Resolved, that the House doth agree to the free Conference desired by the Council.

Ordered, that Mr *Bland* do go to the Council, and acquaint them that the House doth agree to the Conference desired by them.

A Message from the Council by Mr Blair:

Mr Speaker,

The Council have appointed three of their Members to manage the Conference desired with this House, who are now in the Conference Chamber.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Resolved, that Mr Bland, Mr Treasurer, Mr Cary, Mr Jones, Mr Nelson, and Mr Digges, do manage the Conference desired by the Council.

And they went to the Conference.

And being returned;

Mr Bland reported that the Managers had attended the Conference; and that it was managed, on the part of the Council, by Mr Carter, who acquainted them that the Council are of opinion the public Arms are not secure and think it would be proper that an inventory of them be taken, and that an Address be presented to the Governor, to desire that he will consent to the removal of them to a more secure place.

Resolved, that a free Conference be desired with the Council, upon the subject matter of the last Conference.

Ordered, that Mr Bland do go to the Council, and desire the said Conference.

A Message from the Council by Mr Blair:

Mr Speaker,

The Council do agree to the free Conference desired by this House, and have appointed three of their Members to manage the same, who are now in the Conference Chamber.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Resolved, that the Gentlemen who managed the last Conference do manage this Conference.

Ordered, that it be an instruction to them, that they acquaint the Managers for the Council, that this House, will agree to join with the Council, in an Address to be presented to the Governor, to desire that he will consent to the removal of the public Arms to a more secure place; and moreover that they propose to the managers for the Council, that some measure may be taken to secure the Arms in the mean time.

And the Managers went to the Conference.

And being returned;

Mr Bland reported, that the Managers had attended the Conference; and had acquainted the Managers for the Council that this House would agree to join with the Council in an Address to be presented to the Governor, and had proposed to them that some measure may be taken to secure the Arms in the mean time.

A Message from the Council by Mr Blair:

Mr Speaker,

The Council desire a present free Conference with this House in the Conference Chamber on the subject Matter of the last Conference.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Resolved, that this House doth agree to the present free Conference desired by the Council.

Ordered, that Mr Bland do go to the Council, and acquaint them that the House doth agree to the Conference desired by the Council.

A Message from the Council by Mr Blair:

Mr Speaker,

The Council have appointed two of their Members to manage the Conference desired by this House who are now ready in the Conference Chamber.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Resolved,

Resolved, that the Gentlemen who managed the last Conference, do manage this Conference.

And they went to the Conference.

And being returned;

M^r *Bland* reported, that the Managers for the Council acquainted them, that the Council do agree to join with this House in an Address, to be presented to the Governor, to desire, that he will consent to the removal of the public Arms to a more secure Place, and have appointed three of their Members to draw up the said Address, in conjunction with such of this House as may be appointed; but that the Council do not approve of any measure to be taken, before such Address be presented, for securing the said Arms.

Ordered, that the Gentlemen, who managed the Conference, be appointed a Committee to join with a Committee of the Council in drawing up the said Address.³⁹²

M^r *Wood* presented to the House, according to order, a Bill for dissolving the Vestry of Frederick Parish, in the County of *Frederick*; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that an Address be made to the Governor, to order a new Writ to issue for the electing of a Burgess, to serve in the present General Assembly, for the County of *Princess Anne*, in the room of M^r *William Robinson*, who, since his Election for the said County, hath accepted the office of his Majesty's deputy Attorney in the Court of the said County; and that M^r *Wright* do wait upon his Excellency with the said Address.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a Bill, to amend an Act, intituled *An Act for employing and better maintaining the poor*; and that M^r *Bland*, M^r *Holt*, M^r *Newton*, and M^r *Hutchings* do prepare, and bring in the same.

A Bill to dock the intail of two hundred Acres of Land whereof *Thomas Bradford* is seised, and for settling Slaves, of the same value, in lieu thereof, was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to M^r *Isaac Smith*, M^r *Simpson*, M^r *Bowdoin*, M^r *Digges* and M^r *Nelson*.

A Bill for the ease and relief of the People by paying the Burgesses Wages in Money, was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to M^r *Mercer* and M^r *Henry Lee*.

A Bill to dock the intail of certain lands whereof *James Scott*, the younger, is seised, and for settling other Lands in lieu thereof, was read a second time.³⁹³

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to M^r *Henry Lee*, M^r *Marshall*, M^r *Peyton* and M^r *Field*.

A Bill to repeal the Act of General Assembly, made in the twelfth Year the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled *An Act to amend an Act, intituled An Act for better preservation of the breed of Deer, and preventing unlawful hunting*, so far as the same relates to certain Counties, was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Resolved, that this House will, Tomorrow resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House upon the said Bill.

A Bill for establishing the Town of *Helensburg* was read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

The order of the Day being read, for the House to Resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into Consideration the Governor's Answer to the joint Address of the Council and this House.

Ordered, that the report of the Committee appointed to inspect the public Magazine, and inquire into the Stores belonging to the same, which on *Tuesday* last was ordered to lie upon the Table, be referred to the said Committee.

Ordered, that the Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the Causes of the late disturbances and Commotions, which was yesterday ordered to lie upon the Table, be referred to the said Committee.

Ordered,

¹ Hening's VI, p. 475.

394 *Ordered*, that the extract of a letter from the Earl of *Dunmore* to the Earl of *Dartmouth*, dated *Williamsburg*, 24 December, 1774, laid before the House of Commons, which extract was this day presented to this House, be referred to the said Committee.

Then the House resolved itself into the said Committee,

Mr *Speaker* left the Chair.

Mr *Cary* took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr *Speaker* resumed the Chair.

Mr *Cary* reported from the Committee, that they had gone through the matter referred to them, and had come to a Resolution, which they had directed him to report when the House will please to receive the same.

Ordered, that the said Report be now received.

Mr *Cary* accordingly reported from the Committee the Resolution which the Committee had directed him to report to the House, which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that an Address be presented to his Excellency, the Governor, in reply to his Lordship's written Message in answer to the joint Address of the Council and this House, representing to his Excellency the great concern the House was under at receiving such a Message; giving to his Excellency a true state of this Country, the dispositions of the People towards his Majesty and his Government, stating from the evidence now produced to this Committee the real Causes of the late unhappy disturbances, and the effects those disturbances have produced; representing the conduct of the Committee appointed by the House to examine into the state of the public Magazine in its proper light; explaining to his Excellency the views of this House in offering to close with any proper Measures he might have recommended for the Security of his Person and Family; giving his Excellency a faithful account of the Proceedings of the Convention lately held at *Richmond*, and the reasons for the Resolutions then entered into; observing the tendency of his Lordship's representations of the inhabitants of this Colony in his public Letters to the Secretary of State; the design of the Committees, the origin of independent and volunteer Companies, their true design, and the effects they have produced: representing how inconvenient and improper it would be for the House to adjourn to *York Town*; referring his Excellency to the former Address of the House for the reasons why we cannot interpose our legislative Authority in respect to the Courts of Justice, and why we cannot approve the proposition made to us by Parliament, again to assure him that in our Opinion there cannot be the least danger in his returning to the Palace with his family, and that we are still willing and desirous of doing every thing in our Power for their most perfect security; to inform his Excellency, as our Opinion, that the best means of mediating between the Supreme Authority and this Country will be to make an impartial representation of what has happened ever since his arrival in *Virginia*, and to assure him in the warmth of our hearts of the sincerest disposition on our part to have the utmost harmony and most perfect tranquillity restored.

The said Resolution, being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

396 *Ordered*, that a Committee be appointed to draw up an Address, to be presented to the Governor upon the said Resolution.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Bland*, Mr *Cary*, Mr *Digges*, Mr *Nelson*, Mr *Jones* and Mr *Munford*.

Several other Members having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and subscribed the Test, took their places in the House.

Ordered, that Mr *Wright* be added to the Committee for Religion, and the Committee of Trade.

Ordered, that Mr *Slaughter* be added to the Committee of public Claims.

The other order of the day being read;

Resolved,

Resolved, that this House will, Tomorrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill to amend the Act, intituled *an Act¹ for better securing the payment of Levies, and restraint of Vagrants, and for making provision for the poor.*

Resolved, that this House will, tomorrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill for appointing Commissioners to settle the Accounts of the Militia lately drawn out into actual Service; and for making provision to pay the same.

A *Petition* of several Persons of the County of *Accomack*, whose names are thereunto subcribed was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioners and their forefathers, who inhabited the lands lying back from navigable water, near *Watchaprague Creek*, had, until very lately, been allowed the privilege of a way over a corner of Land, now belonging to *Caleb Upshur*, to a landing on the said Creek, for taking and bringing away Fish and Oysters, which way, being but short along a bank, and nearly on the boundary line of the said Land, did not interfere with the owner's inclosures, and was not otherwife considerably detrimental to him; but that the said Caleb Upshur hath now forbidden the Petitioners from frequenting that landing, at their peril, whereby they are in great measure deprived of a comfortable supply of Food; and therefore praying the Consideration of the House, and such relief as shall seem just. 397

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

A *Petition* of several Persons living near *New River*, whose names are thereunto subcribed, was presented to the House, and read; praying that a public Ferry may be established over the said River, on the lands of *William Herbert*.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

A *Bill* to continue an Act intituled *An Act² to prevent the exorbitant exactions of the Collectors of the County and Parish levies*, was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to *M^r Henry Lee and M^r Mason*.

Ordered, that *M^r Treasurer* do immediately employ some proper Person to repair the public Magazine.

A *Bill* to empower the Vestry of the Parish of *Saint John*, in the County of *King William* to sell the Glebe of the said Parish, and for other purposes therein mentioned, 398 was read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be engrossed.

A *Petition* of *Dudley Martin* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner, serving as a private Soldier in the late expedition against the *Shawane* Towns, received a wound in an engagement with the Enemy on the second of *August* last, in his right Shoulder, which hath disabled him so that he cannot labour; and therefore praying relief.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

An engrossed *Bill*, for vesting certain Lots and Street in the Town of *Patefield*, in Trustees, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act for vesting certain Lots and Streets in the Town of Patefield, in Trustees, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*.

Ordered, that *M^r Wills* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

A *Memorial* of the directors and managers for erecting a light-house on *Cape Henry* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that in Compliance with two Acts of the General Assembly of this Colony, and An Act of the General Assembly of the Province of *Maryland*, the Memorialist took the earliest opportunity of executing the Trust reposed in them, by purchasing, and procuring to be transported to the said Cape, Stone and other Materials necessary for the building a light-house, as well as a dwelling House for the keeper thereof, and making and fixing Buoys on the Shoals in the Bay of 399 *Chesapeake*;

¹ Hening's, VI, p. 29.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 381.

Chesapeake; that of the six thousand Pounds, granted by the Acts of this Colony, and three thousand six hundred Pounds, of lawful Money of *Maryland*, granted by the Act of that Province, equal to three thousand two hundred and seventy two pounds fourteen shillings and seven pence, lawful Money of *Virginia*, the Memorialists have expended and contracted for the payment of £7908-4-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ so that there will only remain in their hands about the sum of £1364. 10. besides which, according to the best information they can obtain, it would require a further sum of £5000 or near it, to compleat the Works; and therefore submitting it to the Consideration of the House to make such further Provision and establishments, as they may think proper to carry the laudable intention of the two Assemblies into execution.

Ordered, that the said Memorial be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Trade; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

Ordered, that a Message be sent to the Council, informing them, that it appears to this House, by the Report of their Committee, that the locks of upward of three hundred Guns, lately in compleat order in the public Magazine, have been taken off, that one hundred and eight of these Guns are still in the Magazine, but are useless without locks; that this House requests the Council to join them in an Address to his Excellency, the Governor, desiring his lordship will be pleased to communicate to the Council and this House, whether the Locks were taken off by his Excellency's command, and, if ⁴⁰⁰ they were, that his Lordship will be pleased to direct them to be returned to the Magazine, which will be in a fit condition tomorrow to receive them.

Ordered, that Mr *Mercer* do carry the said Message to the Council.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, ten of the Clock.

Friday, the 16th of June, 15 Geo. III. 1775.

ORDERED, that Mr *Terry* have leave to be absent from the service of this House for the remainder of this Session.

Mr *Mercer* reported from the Committee, to whom the *Bill*, for the ease and relief of the People, by paying the Burgees Wages in Money, was committed; that the Committee had gone through the *Bill*, and made several Amendments thereunto, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the report in his Place; and afterwards delivered the *Bill*, with the Amendments, in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendments were read throughout, and then a second time, one by one, and, upon the Question severally put thereupon, were, with an Amendment to one of them, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the *Bill*, with the Amendment be engrossed.

The *order* of the day being read, for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the *Bill* for appointing Commissioners to settle the Accounts of the Militia lately drawn out into actual Service, and for making provision to pay the same;

⁴⁰¹ *Ordered*, that the Governor's written Message to this House, and the Papers therein referred to, which, upon *Monday*, the fifth day of this instant *June*, were ordered to lie upon the Table, be referred to the said Committee.

Then the House resolved itself into the said Committee.

Mr *Speaker* left the Chair.

Mr *Bland* took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr *Speaker* resumed the Chair.

Mr *Bland* reported from the Committee that they had made a progress in the *Bill*, and that he was directed by the Committee to move, that they may have leave to sit again.

Resolved,

Resolved, that this House will Tomorrow resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider further of the said Bill.

A Petition of several Persons inhabitants of that part of the Parish of *Beckford*, which was lately taken from the Parish of *Frederick*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that by means of the alteration in the boundary of the said Parish, the Petitioners are subject to taxation by a Vestry, in the election of whom they had no voice; and therefore praying that the said Vestry may be dissolved.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Religion; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

The other orders of the Day being read;

Resolved, that this House will, Tomorrow resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill, to repeal the Act of General Assembly, made in the twelfth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled *An Act¹ to amend an Act, intituled An Act for better preservation of the breed of Deer, and preventing unlawful hunting, so far as the same relates to certain Counties.*

Resolved, that this House will, Tomorrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill to amend the Act, intituled *An Act² for the better securing the payment of levies, and restraint of Vagrants, and for making Provision for the Poor.*

M^r *Henry Lee* reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill, to continue an Act, intituled *An Act³ to prevent the exorbitant exactions of the Collectors of the County and Parish levies*, was committed, that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made an Amendment thereunto, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the report in his place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendment in at the Clerk's Table; where the Report was read.

Resolved, that the said Bill be recommitted.

Resolved, that the said bill be recommitted to the same Committee.

Ordered, that M^r *Mercer*, M^r *Bland*, M^r *Carrington*, M^r *Cabell*, and M^r *Terry* be added to the said Committee.

A Petition of the Attorneys at Law, practicing in the Courts of the Counties of *Augusta*, *Dunmore*, *Frederick*, *Hampshire*, and *Berkeley*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the times for holding Courts in the said Counties are inconvenient; and therefore praying that the Court Days may be altered, of *Frederick*, to the first *Monday*, *Dunmore* to the second, *Augusta* and *Berkeley*, to the third, and *Hampshire*, to the last *Monday*, in every Month.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Courts of Justice; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

A Message from the Council by M^r *Blair*:

M^r *Speaker*,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act⁴ to revive the Act, intituled An Act for giving a Salary to the Speaker of the House of Burgesses, without any Amendment; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act⁵ for further continuing and amending an Act intituled An Act for appointing a Treasurer, without any Amendment; and also,

*The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act⁶ for altering and establishing the boundaries of the Counties of *Stafford* and *King George*, without any Amendment; and also,*

*The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act⁷ to dock the intail of certain Lands, whereof *William Day* is feised in fee-tail and for settling other Lands and Slaves, to be purchased, in lieu thereof, without any Amendment.*

And then the Messenger withdrew.

M^r

¹ *Hening's*, VIII, p. 591.

² *Ibid.*, VI, p. 29.

³ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 381.

⁴ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 587.

⁵ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 588.

⁶ *Ibid.*, IX, 244.

⁷ Not recorded as a law.

M^r *Henry Lee* reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof *James Scott*, the younger, is feised, and for settling other lands in lieu thereof, was committed, that the Committee had examined the Allegations of the Bill, and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had made an Amendment thereunto, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendment, in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendment was twice read, and, upon the Question put thereupon, was agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Bill, with the Amendment, be engrossed.

404 A *Petition* of the Freeholders and others, inhabitants of the Parish of *Northfarnham*, in the County of *Richmond*, whose names are thereunto subscirbed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Vestry of the said Parish, who were not chosen by the freeholders and housekeepers thereof, are nearly connected by consanguinity or affinity, and have grieviously oppressed the Petitioners, by affessing upon them several illegal expences; that one of them having taken a lease from the incumbent, of part of the Glebe land, committed waste thereon, by cutting and carrying away the Timber; and that several of them have not subscirbed in Vestry to be conformable to the Doctrine and discipline of the Church of *England*, according to Law; and therefore praying, that the said Vestry may be dissolved.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee for Religion; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

M^r *Cary* reported to the House, that their Address of *Monday* last, had been presented to the Governor; and that his Excellency gave him a written answere thereunto; and he delivered the said Answere in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Gentlemen of the House of Burgeesses,

It is with real concern I can discover nothing in your address that I think manifests the smalleſt inclination to, or will be productive of, a reconciliation with the Mother Country.

405 *Resolved*, that an Address be presented to his Excellency the Governor, informing him the public Magazine is now in fit condition for the reception of Arms and Ammunition; requesting his Lordship will be pleased to order the Powder lately removed from thence by his Excellency's command to be returned agreeable to his promise.

To *represent* that it appears to this House, by a report of a Committee appointed to inspect the Magazine, that there are no Arms there fit for service; that, in these critical times, an *Indian War* is not improbable, and an insurrection of Slaves may possibly be encouraged solely by the want of the public Stores of Arms and Ammunition, which is now become a fact of public notoriety; that the legislature of this Colony have long since establiſhed a very ample fund for this necessary purpofe, by granting his Majesty one ſhilling and three pence ſterling upon the Tonnage of Veffels, which appears for ſeveral Years to exceed three thouſand pounds ſterling per annum; that the House of Burgeeffes heretofore, truſting that Government would provide means ſo eſſential for the prefervation of this Colony, have not interfered in this Buſineſſ; but this House, finding that, tho' this want was known to Government more than twelve Months paſt, no means have been adopted to provide againſt it, conceive it their duty to remind Government of this great Grievance, and to request, that two thouſand ſtand of Arms, five tuns of Powder, and twenty tuns of lead, at the leaſt, and a ſufficient quantity of other Articles, be immediately provided and lodged in the public Magazine for the defence of this Colony in caſe of any invasion or insurrection; affuring his Excellency that if the funds aforementioned ſhall prove iſſufficient this House will cheerfully make further Provision for theſe purpoſes.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to draw up an Address, to be preſented to the Governor, upon the ſaid Refolution.

And

And a Committee was appointed of Mr *Mercer*, Mr *Cary*, and Mr *Braxton*.

Ordered, that Mr *Cabell* have leave to be absent from the service of this House for ⁴⁰⁶ a fortnight.

Joseph *Hutchings*, Thomas *Newton*, junior, James *Webb*, John *Wilson*, Abram *Wormington*, Peter *Singleton*, and James *Holt*, Gentlemen, seven of the Persons named in the Act of General Assembly, made in the twelfth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled *An Act¹ for opening the falls of James River, by Subscription, and for other purposes*, reported; that they had caused the Surveyor of the County of *Norfolk* to Survey and Measure the distance from the head of the Southern branch of *Elizabeth River*, to the head of the *South* fork of the *North River*, by a plan of which Survey the distance appeared to be six Miles and a quarter, and that they had also caused the Surveyor of the County of *Princess Anne* to Survey and Measure the distance between the Head of the *Eastern* branch of *Elizabeth River*, and the Head of the *North* fork of the *North River*, by a plan of which Survey the distance appears to be seven Miles and one hundred and forty Perches; and that they had reason to believe, from the information of Isaac *Hildrith* and James *Tait*, persons skilful in such Works, that it was practicable to cut a Canal from the head of one of the said branches of *Elizabeth River*, to the head of the *North River*. And Mr *Holt* read the said Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it with several plans thereunto annexed, the Reports and estimates of the said Isaac *Hildrith* and James *Tait*, and an Account of the Expences hitherto incurred, in at the Clerk's Table; where the said Report was read.

Ordered, that the said Report and the Papers therein referred to be referred to the consideration of the Committee of Trade; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report their opinion of the practicability and expence of cutting a Canal at either of the Places in the said Report mentioned, and what allowances ought to be made to the Surveyors; and the said Isaac *Hildrith* and James *Tait*, for their Services, and how the same, with the other expences already incurred, ought to be defrayed, to the House. ⁴⁰⁷

Mr *Treasurer* presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill for appointing Commissioners, to ratify and confirm the late treaty of Peace with the *Ohio* Indians; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

Ordered, that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to Mr *Treasurer*, Mr *Bland*, Mr *Cary*, Mr *Digges*, Mr *Nelson*, Mr *Jones*, and Mr *John Walker*.

A Petition of John *Dames* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioner, to whom the care of the Fort at old *Point Comfort* was entrusted, had, ever since the Month of *February* 1774, constantly kept up a good light at that place every Night, which had been of great Utility and singular advantage to Vessels coming in from Sea, and passing up and down *Chesapeake Bay*, as would appear by a great number of considerable Traders and other respectable Persons, who had subscribed their names to his Petition, to testify to the truth of the allegations thereof; and therefore praying the House to take the matter into Consideration, and allow him, out of the fund appropriated for the building a light-house at *Cape-Henry*, such annual Stipend as shall be adjudged adequate to his Services.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Trade; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same with their Opinion thereupon to the House. ⁴⁰⁸

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, ten of the Clock.

Saturday.

¹ Hening's, VIII. p. 564.

Saturday, the 17th of June, 15 Geo. III. 1775.

ORDERED, that this House be called over upon Monday next.

Mr *Nelson* reported from the Committee of Trade, to whom the Memorial of the directors and managers for erecting a lighthouse at *Cape-Henry*, was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Memorial, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolution of the Committee was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the matters set forth in the said Memorial are true, and reasonable; and that it will require the further sum of five thousand Pounds to compleat the building of the said lighthouse.

The said *Resolution* being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that it be an instruction to the Committee of the whole House, to whom the Bill for appointing Commissioners to settle the Accounts of the Militia lately drawn out into actual service, and for making provision to pay the same, was committed, that they make provision in the said Bill for payment of the sum of five thousand Pounds to compleat the building of the light-house at *Cape-Henry*.

⁴⁰⁹ The *order* of the Day being read, for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider further of the Bill, for appointing Commissioners to settle the Accounts of the Militia lately drawn out into actual Service, and for making provision to pay the same:

The House resolved itself into the said Committee.

Mr *Speaker* left the Chair.

Mr *Bland* took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr *Speaker* resumed the Chair.

Mr *Bland* reported from the Committee, that they had gone through the Bill, and made several Amendments thereunto, which they had directed him to report, when the House will please receive the same.

Ordered, that the Report be now received.

Mr *Bland* accordingly reported from the said Committee the Amendments which the Committee had made to the Bill, and which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendments, in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendments were once read throughout, and then a second time, one by one, and, upon the Question severally put thereupon, one of them was disagreed to, and the rest were, with Amendments to several of them, agreed to by the House: and several Amendments were made by the House to the Bill.

Ordered, that the Bill, with the Amendments, be engrossed.

Another *Member*, having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and subscribed the Test, took his place in the House.

⁴¹⁰ *Ordered*, that Mr *Joseph Cabell* be added to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, and to the Committee of public Claims.

An engrossed Bill to vest certain intailed Lands, in the County of *King William*, in *John West*, Gentleman, in fee Simple, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act¹ to vest certain intailed Lands, in the County of King William, in John West, Gentleman, in fee simple, and for other purposes therein mentioned*:

Ordered, that Mr *Aylett* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Mr

¹ Not recorded as a law.

M^r *Mercer* reported from the Committee, appointed on *Wednesday*, the seventh of this Instant *June*, to draw up an Address, to be presented to the Governor, that the Committee had drawn up an Address accordingly, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the same in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

My Lord,

We his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Burgeesses of Virginia, return your Lordship our sincere thanks for your kind tender of Services expressed in your Message to this House of the sixth Instant, as also for your Lordship's assurance that you will do every Thing in your Power to restore the public Tranquility upon a sure and firm Foundation. This House, my Lord, have the highest Sense of the Services you rendered to this Country on the late Indian Expedition, and, while they reflect upon this part of your Lordship's Conduct, sincerely lament that any Event should disturb the Happiness which your Lordship is pleased to say you have enjoyed among us. Wishing, most ardently, for a Restoration of that Harmony which subsisted between your Lordship and the People, we have directed an Inquiry into the Causes of the late Disturbances and Commotions, which have arisen in some parts of this Colony; and we assure your Lordship, that we will proceed to investigate this Matter with due Attention, and apply, on our parts, Remedies the best our Abilities can suggest.

The said Address being read a second time,

Resolved, that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Address, to be presented to the Governor.

Ordered, that the said Address be presented to his Excellency, by M^r *Cary*, M^r *Braxton*, M^r *Wood*, M^r *Jones* and M^r *Zane*.

An engrossed Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands, whereof *James Scott*, the younger, is seised, and for settling other Lands in lieu thereof, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill¹ do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act to dock the intail of certain Lands whereof, James Scott, the younger, is seised, and for settling other Lands in lieu thereof.*

Ordered, that M^r *Henry Lee* do carry the Bill to the Council and desire their Concurrence.

The order of the Day being read, for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill to repeal the Act of General Assembly, made in the twelfth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled *An Act to amend an Act, intituled an Act for better preservation of the breed of Deer, and preventing unlawful hunting*, so far as the same relates to certain Counties;

The House resolved itself into the said Committee.

M^r *Speaker* left the Chair.

M^r *Bland* took the Chair of the Committee.

M^r *Speaker* resumed the Chair.

M^r *Bland* reported from the Committee, that they had gone through the Bill, and made several Amendments thereunto, which they had directed him to report, when the House will be pleased to receive the same.

Ordered, that the Report be now received.

M^r *Bland* accordingly reported from the said Committee, the Amendments which the Committee had made to the Bill, and which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendments in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendments were once read throughout, and then, a second time, one by one, and, upon the Question severally put thereupon, were agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Bill, with the Amendments be engrossed.

An engrossed bill to empower the Vestry of the Parish of *Saint John*, in the County of *King William*, to sell the Glebe of the said Parish, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was read the third time.

Resolved,

¹ Not recorded as a law.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act¹ to empower the Vestry of the Parish of Saint John, in the County of King William, to sell the Glebe of the said Parish, and for other purposes therein mentioned.*

Ordered, that Mr^r Braxton do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

The other *Order of the Day* being read;

Resolved, that this House will, upon *Friday*, the thirteenth day of *October* next, 413 resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill to amend the *Act*, intituled *An Act² for better securing the payment of levies, and restraint of Vagrants, and for making Provision for the Poor.*

A *Message* from the Council by Mr^r Blair:

Mr^r Speaker,

The Council do agree to join with this House in an Address to his Excellency the Governor as this House have desired, concerning the Locks taken off some of the Guns in the Magazine; and they have appointed two of their Members to join the Members, which may be appointed by this House, to prepare the same.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Ordered, that Mr^r Mercer, Mr^r Cary, Mr^r Munford, and Mr^r Jones do join the Members, appointed by the Council, do prepare the said *Address*.

A *Petition* of James Galt was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that, on the first establishment of the public Hospital, the Court of Directors appointed the Petitioner keeper, and his Wife Matron thereof, but did not agree to allow them any stated Salary, proposing to refer that matter to the Consideration of this House, in which the Petitioner chearfully acquiesced; and submitting it to the House to make him such allowance, for his past and future Services, as they shall think reasonable.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

An engrossed *Bill* for raising a Capital sum of forty thousand Pounds Sterling, by Subscription, and establishing a Company for the opening and extending the Navigation 414 of the River *Potowmack*, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the title be *An Act³ for raising a Capital sum of forty thousand Pounds Sterling, by subscription, and establishing a Company for the opening and extending the navigation of the River Potowmack.*

Ordered, that Mr^r Mercer do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

A *Message* from the Council by Mr^r Blair:

Mr^r Speaker,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act for vesting certain lots and Streets in the Town of Patesfield in Trustees, and for other purposes therein mentioned, without any Amendment; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Reslove for paying a Salary to the Organist; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Reslove for paying a Salary to the public Gaoler; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Reslove for paying a sum of Money, and an Annuity to William Lynn; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Reslove for paying a sum of Money to Colonel William Fleming.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Mr^r Mercer reported from the Committee appointed Yesterday, to draw up an *Address*, upon the *Resolution* of this House, to be presented to the Governor, that the Committee

¹ Not recorded as a law.

² Hening's VI, p. 29.

³ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 570.

Committee had drawn up an Address accordingly, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the same in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

My Lord,

We his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Burgesses of Virginia, beg leave ⁴¹⁵ *to inform your Lordship, that the Public Magazine is now repaired, and in fit Condition for the Reception of Arms and Ammunition.*

We therefore request your Lordship will be pleased to order the Powder, lately removed from thence, to be returned, agreeable to your Lordship's promise, contained in your written Message to this House; We further beg leave to inform your Lordship, that it appears to the House, from the Report of their Committee appointed to inspect the public Magazine, that there are no Arms therein fit for service. At this critical time, my Lord, when your Excellency assures us of the great probability of an Indian Invasion, at a time too when an Insurrection of our Slaves may be encouraged, merely from a Notoriety of a total Deficiency in our public Stores of Arms and Ammunition, it is a Duty we owe to our Country and ourselves to remind your Lordship, that the Legislature of this Colony have long since made ample Provision for the purchase of Arms and Ammunition, and established a competent Fund for that purpose, by granting to his Majesty one shilling and three pence Sterling upon the Tonnage of all Vessels trading to this Country. This Fund, my Lord, has, for several Years last past, exceeded three thousand pounds Sterling per Annum; and our Predecessors, in former Assemblies, trusting that Government would always make a necessary and adequate Provision in a Matter so essential to the immediate and future preservation of this Colony, have not interfered in this Business. But, my Lord, this House, finding a total inattention in Government to this important Provision, altho' it must have appeared essential more than twelve Months ago, and still observing that no means are pursued to supply a Deficiency so alarming, now conceive it to be their Duty, not only to represent this Grievance to your Lordship, but also request that you will be pleased to order that two thousand Stand of Arms, five Tuns of Powder, and twenty Tuns of Lead, at the least, with a sufficient Quantity of other Military Stores, be immediately provided for the Defence of this Colony, in Case of any Invasion or Insurrection, and that the same be lodged in the Public Magazine. In case the Fund aforementioned shall prove Deficient, this House assure your Lordship that they will make such farther or other Provision as may be necessary to enable your Lordship to comply with this Request. ⁴¹⁶

The said Address being read a second time;

Resolved, that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Address, to be presented to the Governor.

Ordered, that the said Address be presented to the Governor, by M^r Cary, M^r Braxton, M^r Wood, M^r Jones, and M^r Zane.

A Petition of Abraham Hite, Thomas Rutherford, and James Wood was presented to the House, and read; setting forth that the Petitioners were appointed Commissioners for opening a road from the Frontiers of this Colony to fort Pitt, on the Ohio River, in which service the Petitioners were employed, the said Abraham Hite twenty five days, the said Thomas Rutherford twelve Days, and the said James Wood seventeen days; and praying the Consideration of the House, and such allowance as is usual in such Cases.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House.

M^r Nelson reported from the Committee of Trade, to whom the Petition of John Dames was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petition, and had come to a resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolution of the Committee was read, and is as followeth, *viz.* ⁴¹⁷

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the said Petition of the said John Dames praying to be allowed an annual stipend out of the fund appropriated to

to the building a light-house at *Cape-Henry* for his keeping up a light at the Fort at *Old Point Comfort* is reasonable.

The said *Resolution* being read a second time; an Amendment was proposed to be made thereunto, by leaving out the Words, "Out of the fund appropriated to the building a lighthouse at *Cape-Henry*."

And the *Question* being put, that the Words, "out of the fund appropriated to the building a light-house at *Cape-Henry*," stand part of the Resolution;

It passed in the Negative.

Another *Amendment* was proposed to be made to the said *Resolution*, by adding thereunto the words, "and that he ought to be allowed twenty pounds per Annum, until the lighthouse at *Cape-Henry* shall be finished."

And the *Question* being put that the Words, "and that he ought to be allowed twenty pounds per Annum until the lighthouse at *Cape-Henry* shall be finished."

It was resolved in the affirmative.

Resolved, that this House doth agree with the Committee in the *Resolution* so amended.

Resolved, that the sum of twenty Pounds per Annum be paid to *John Dames*, for keeping up a light at the Fort at *Old Point Comfort*, until the lighthouse at *Cape-Henry* shall be finished.

⁴¹⁸ *Ordered*, that Mr *Nelson* do carry the *Resolution* to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

A *Message* from the Council by Mr *Blair*;

Mr Speaker,

The Council have agreed to the Address prepared by a Committee of the Council and of this House; and have appointed two of their Members to join such Members as this House may appoint, to present the same to his Excellency; and he presented the said Address at the Bar.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

The said *Address* was read, and is as followeth, *viz*:

My Lord,

We his Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Council and Burgesses of Virginia, beg leave to represent to your Excellency, that as You have been pleased to leave the Palace, we are very apprehensive the Public Arms therein are too insecure, and very much exposed; and therefore hope your Lordship will be pleased to order them to be removed, during your Lordship's Absence, to the Public Magazine; which is now, in our Opinion a secure Depository.

Resolved, that this House doth agree with the Council in the said *Address*, to be presented to the Governor.

Ordered, that the said *Address* be presented to his Excellency by Mr *Cary*, Mr *Braxton*, Mr *Wood*, Mr *Jones*, and Mr *Zane*, in conjunction with the Members appointed by the Council.

⁴¹⁹ A *Petition* of *John James Wood*, *Henry Baker*, and *John Wood*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Petitioners were summoned to attend the General Court as Witnesses against *Joseph Fry* and others who are indicted for a misdemeanor, and did attend accordingly; but that, by some mistake in the Clerk of that Court, no entry was made of their attendance; and therefore praying the Consideration of the House, and that they may be paid for travelling and attending.

Ordered, that the said *Petition* be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

M^r Henry Lee presented to the House, according to Order, a bill to amend an Act, intituled *An Act¹ to regulate the inoculation of the small pox within this Colony*; and the same was received and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

And then the House adjourned till Monday Morning next ten of the Clock.

Monday, the 19th of June, 15 Geo. III. 1775.

THE order of the Day being read;

Ordered, that the call of the House be adjourned till tomorrow.

M^r Henry Lee reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill to continue an Act, intituled *an Act² to prevent the exorbitant exactions of the Collectors of the County and Parish levies*, was recommitted, that the Committee had made several other Amendments to the Bill, which they had directed him to report to the House and he read the report in his Place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendments in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendments were once read throughout, and then a second time, one by one, and upon the Question severally put thereupon, were agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that the Bill with the Amendment, be engrossed.

M^r Bland presented to the House Copies of several Resolutions of the General ⁴²⁰ Congress, which he delivered in at the Clerk's Table, where the same were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

“Wednesday May 17.

“That all exportations to Quebec, Nova Scotia, the island of Saint John, Newfoundland, and Georgia, except the Parish of Saint Johns, and to East and West Florida, immediately cease; and that no Provisions, of any kind, or other necessaries, be furnished to the british fisheries on the American Coasts until it be otherwise determined by the Congress.”³

“Monday, May 29.

“That no Provisions or necessaries of any kind be exported to the island of Nantucket, except from the Colony of Massachusets Bay, the convention of which Colony is desired to take Measures for effectually providing the said island, upon their application to purchase the same, with as much Provision as shall be necessary for its internal use, and no more. The Congress deeming it of great importance to North America, that the British fishery should not be furnished with Provisions from this Continent through Nantucket, earnestly recommend a vigilant execution of this Resolve to all Committees.”⁴

Friday, June 2.

“That no bill of exchange, draught, or order of any Officer, in the Army or Navy, their agents or Contractors, be received or negotiated, or any Money be supplied to them by any Person in America; that no Provisions or necessaries of any kind, be furnished or supplied to or for the use of the british army or navy in the colony of Massachusets bay, and that no Vessel employed in transporting british Troops to America, or from one part of North America to another,⁵ or warlike Stores or provisions for said Troops be freighted or furnished with Provisions, or any necessaries, until further orders from this Congress.”⁴²¹

The said Resolutions being read a second time;

Resolved, that this House doth approve of the same; and recommend it to the several Committees within this Colony, for carrying into execution the Continental Association, to be vigilant in seeing the said Resolutions strictly complied with.

An

¹ Hening's IX. p. 371.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 381.

³ Journals of Congress, 1774-75, p. 102.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 109.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 113.

An engrossed *Bill* for appointing Commissioners to settle the Accounts of the Militia lately drawn out into actual Service, and for making Provision to pay the same, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the title be, *An Act¹ for appointing Commissioners to settle the Accounts of the Militia lately drawn out into actual Service, and for making Provision to pay the same.*

Ordered, that Mr *Mercer* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

A *Message* from the Council by Mr *Blair*:

Mr *Speaker*,

The Council have agreed to the Bill intituled An Act² to impower the Vestry of the Parish of Saint John, in the County of King William, to sell the Glebe of the said Parish, and for other Purposes therein mentioned, with some Amendments, to which Amendments the Council desire the Concurrence of this House; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Resolve, for paying four hundred and fifty pounds per Annum, to Alexander Purdie, the public printer.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

422 Mr *Treasurer* reported, from the Committee, appointed on *Thursday* last, to draw up an address, to be presented to the Governor, that the Committee had drawn up an Address accordingly, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the same in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

My Lord,

423 *The House of Burgeesses received your Lordship's written Message of the tenth instant, in answer to the joint Address of his Majesty's honorable Council and this House, with equal Concern and Amazement. We were totally unprepared for so severe and cruel a Return to the respectful Application made to your Lordship, solely dictated by our Duty to his Majesty, and the most earnest desire of contributing every Thing in our Power towards promoting, as well as your Lordship's own Happiness, as that of your Lady and whole Family. This step, we hoped would have proved the happy Means of restoring that Tranquillity, and Harmony, you were pleased to flatter us with your earnest Wishes to have established. Who were the peculiar Objects of your Tenderness, that you so kindly, in favor to them, declined a particular Enumeration, we know not; but are sorry that your Lordship had so little Feeling for the Honour, and Integrity, of this House. You have now, my Lord, driven us to the disagreeable necessity of inquiring, minutely, into the Causes of the late Disturbances in this Country. It is not with the most distant inclination to give your Lordship the slightest Umbrage that we engage in so irksome a Task, but purely to do Justice to our much injured Country, that we recur to different, and some distant, Transactions. The Charges of disloyalty and disaffection in our Countrymen to our most gracious Sovereign, and his Government, as insinuated in your Lordship's Message, and some other publick Acts, are as grievous as they are unmerited. Words, we know, are too often but empty sounds. We appeal not to professions, however sincere, but to Facts, of publick Notoriety. The loyalty of this his Majesty's most ancient Colony stands confessed, as recorded by many of your worthy Predecessors. We will presume to carry your attention no further back than to the Administration of a Governor immediately preceding your Lordship. Previous to his coming over to Virginia, there had arisen some unhappy disputes between Great Britain and the Colonies. His Majesty was graciously pleased to send over to us from his immediate Presence the truly noble Lord Botetourt, who told us, that he had received it in command from his Majesty to do Justice, and maintain the Rights of all his Subjects. He cheerfully entered upon the duties of his exalted Station, in which he acted as a true Representative of his Royal Master, at once supporting the Dignity of his Crown, dispensing the utmost Justice, and diffusing benevolence throughout the Country.*

By

¹ Hening's, IX, p. 61—ordinance.

² Not recorded as a law.

By his exemplary Conduct, in all Respects, he accomplished what he deemed a glorious Work: He gave us Tranquillity, and Happiness. Indeed he was often heard to declare, that the business of a Governor of Virginia was so much easier than he could have conceived, as he found that the Government almost executed itself. Matters were not at that Time carried on, and precipitated, with so high a Hand, on the other side of the Water, as at present. This probably was owing to his minutely examining every subject to the bottom himself, taking nothing upon Trust, to his discountenancing Tale-Bearers, and malicious ⁴²⁴ Informers; and, at last, making a faithful Representation of Things, as he found them. In a short, too short a Time, for the Happiness of Virginia, it pleased GOD to remove him from us. When we received the Account of your Lordships appointment, we indulged the pleasing Hopes that we should again be made happy in a Ruler; And when you were pleased to honour us with your Presence, we vied with each other in endeavoring to make your Administration easy and agreeable. Upon the Report that your Lady and Family were coming over to you, every one, we believe, who heard it, was eager in Expectation of an Event which was likely to give Addition to your Happiness. We received her Ladyship, and your Children, with every expression of Heart-felt Joy, and have considered our Countrymen as exceedingly happy in having such respectable Pledges amongst them. Changes, my Lord, seldom happen without some sufficient Cause. If, therefore, you have, or think you have, discovered any Alteration in the Sentiments or behaviour of those you preside over, it may be worth your while, as well as ours, to search out the reason of it. Respect, my Lord, is not to be obtained by Force, from a free People. If genuine, it must be a perfect Volunteer; and nothing is so likely to ensure it, to one in your Station, as Dignity of Character, a candid and exemplary Conduct. We decline, on this Occasion, a Discussion of the Subject unhappily in Dispute between Great Britain and the Colonies. We presume not to interfere with your Authority in summoning or dissolving Assemblies, when, by advice of your Council, you think there is proper Occasion. What we claim, as an Act of Justice, is, that our Conduct should be fairly and impartially represented to our Sovereign. We do not mean to insinuate that your Lordship would, designedly, misrepresent Facts; but it is much to be feared that you too easily give Credit to some designing Persons, who, to the great injury of this Community, possess much too large a share of your Confidence. We have seen my Lord, the Copy of a letter¹ you were pleased to write to the Earl of Dartmouth dated the 29th of May 1774. The design of the then Assembly was entirely misconceived, and the ill Impressions your Lordship's Letter may have made on the Minds of his Majesty, and his Ministers, prove how dangerous it is, and how very unjust it may be, to attempt penetrating the Thoughts of others, when they are not certainly known. Suspicious, we humbly conceive, can never justify direct and positive Accusation. Men, we know, differ in religious Sentiments. Some may believe in the Superintendence of a Providence and that the Care especially, of Nations, is an Object of Divine Goodness; whilst others may think, or affect to treat this as well as other Matters which our Religion teaches, as Things merely chimerical. We have likewise seen an authentick Copy of Extracts of another of your Lordship's Letters¹ to the same noble Earl, dated the 24th of December 1774. The more injurious the unfavorable Representations, contained in this Letter, were likely to be to this Country, the more careful we should have hoped your Lordship would have been in examining the Evidence of the Facts stated. Your Lordship had been pleased to represent, in the first Letter, our House of Burgesses as fond of having it thought that a "determined Resolution to deny and oppose the Authority of Parliament always originates with them." Whether this was intended to draw down the particular Resentment of Parliament on this Country, your Lordship can best determine. They have, indeed, protested against the Power of Parliament, when they thought it exerted contrary to the Principles of the Constitution; but we do not know that they ever affected to take the lead of the other Colonies, in this, or any other Measure; The times of entering their Protestations were merely accidental, as Circumstances happened, and it is notorious, that the subject of the present Complaint had been under the Consideration of some other Colonies before the Virginians took it up. It would seem, from your Lordship's Letter, of the 24th of December, that the Association adopted by the General Congress was first ⁴²⁵ recommended

¹ Bancroft Transcripts, 1768-1776—Library of Congress.

recommended from Virginia; whereas the Truth is, that, in Virginia, nothing was more resolved against, at first, than the Importation and Use of East India Commodities. The General Non-Export and Non-Import Agreement came first recommended to us from several of the Northern Colonies. This we own makes no difference now, as the several Colonies have united in the Association, It is only remarked, since this Circumstance seems to have been thought material, as no strong Testimony of a kind Disposition in your Lordship towards this Country, That Committees were chosen, in the several Counties, is admitted. The design of them was to observe the Conduct of those who were inimical to the interest of the Country. They were required to publish the Names of all Transgressors, that the Country might know their Friends from their Foes. This you were pleased, to term "inviting the vengeance of a lawless Mob to be exercised upon the unhappy Victims." You farther represented these Committees as assuming an Authority to inspect the Books, Invoices, and all the Secrets of the Trade and Correspondence of Merchants. This, my Lord, was high-colouring of assumed Facts; which we, who inhabit different parts of the Country, are strangers to. To close your Narrative upon this Head, you were pleased to inform your noble Correspondent, that "every County in this Colony was arming a Company of Men, whom they call an independent Company, for the avowed Purpose of protecting their Committees, and to be employed against Government, if Occasion required; and that the Committee of one County had proceeded so far as to swear the Men of their independent Company to execute all Orders which should be given them from their Committee. These, my Lord, are things entirely without our Knowledge, and upon the strictest inquiry, we are convinced they deserve no Credit. There were a few Companies of Gentlemen formed, who were desirous of perfecting themselves in Military Exercise; but we find not more than six or seven throughout the whole Colony, which consists of sixty one Counties. This was designed to distinguish them from the Militia at large; the first, and most considerable of these, was instituted for the better Protection of the Inhabitants of Norfolk Borough, and afterwards received your Lordship's Approbation, so far, that you expressed the warmest Wishes, that the Example might be followed throughout the Country, and gave Commissions to their Officers, That these Companies were connected with the Committees, or that they were ever designed to act against, or in any sort to interfere with, what you are pleased to call Government, we do not know, or believe, but, on the Contrary, we are verily persuaded that they were always ready and willing to exert themselves to support the Laws, and his Majesty's Government, to the utmost of their Power. Your Lordship's Assertion, "that the Power of Government was entirely disregarded, if not wholly overturned, and that there was not a Justice of the Peace in Virginia who acted except as a Committee-Man," we cannot but consider as highly unjust, and extremely injuriously to us. We have the greatest Reason to believe, having it in full proof, that the Magistrates throughout the Colony duly attended their respective Courts; and though for the Reasons assigned in our former Address to your Lordship, they could not think themselves legally authorized to hear and determine civil Suits, yet we are persuaded that their former Endeavours to preserve the Peace and good order of Government were not interrupted but exerted in the usual manner. The original Cause of suspending the Trials of civil disputes was, as your Lordships observes, the want of a Fee Bill. This legal defect was much lamented, and not used, that we know of, as a popular Argument, by any Man of good sense; nor did the Inhabitants of this Country join in what you are pleased to call an opprobrious Measure to engage their "English Creditors to join the Clamorers of this Country." Your Lordship's Assertion, that "not a few did it to avoid paying their Debts, in which many of the principal People here are much involved," We can only answer for ourselves in the Negative, and must consider so indiscriminate a charge as extremely injurious. We were so far from desiring to do injustice to Creditors, that it gave us great Pain to observe that such a step was thought necessary; and nothing but the Hopes of being relieved from the arbitrary system of Colony Government, attempted to be introduced, could have prevailed with us to submit to a stoppage of our Exports. The Merchants of London, in their written Message, by a respectable Member of their Body, to the Committee of the House of Commons, have done us ample Justice in this Respect; by representing, that they should

should have no Uneasiness about Remittances from America, unless Parliament pursued such means as were likely to prevent them. The Congress, my Lord, we consider as instituted on Principles of public Necessity; we do not deny our having a proper Respect for that Body; we learn, from good Authority, that their humble and dutiful Petition to his Majesty was graciously received, though it is with Concern we are told it has hitherto produced no good Effects: But that the Inhabitants of Virginia treated with "Marks of Reverence the Laws of the Congress, which they never bestowed on their legal Government, or the Laws proceeding from it," is one of a great Number of Facts requiring Proof; Since we must take leave to say, with Confidence, that his Majesty's subjects of Virginia have been second to none others, even his most dutiful and loyal Subjects in any Part of his wide extended Dominions, in all due Respect to his Government, Governours, and all in Authority under him.

We cannot but remind your Lordship of the General Congress held in America, with the royal approbation, in the last Wars. The united Interest indeed of Great Britain, and the Colonies, might have then demanded it. In imitation of so laudable an Example, America resolved on a like measure, as equally, if not more necessary, at this critical Juncture. Your Lordship's Account of the Effects the Association is likely to produce, considering it as a matter of Opinion, we are little concerned to interfere with. Time only can discover the Consequences of it; but your heavy charge against those called People of Fortune, "that they supply themselves and Negroes for two or three Years, to the Distress of the middling and poorer sort," must have proceeded from your giving too easy Credit to ill-founded Reports. Some, but very few, may have supplied themselves, as opportunity offered, for the present Year. This, we believe, is the most that has been done; and we are persuaded of a material Mistake in another Respect, it being the general Opinion, founded on good Grounds, that the middling and poorer sort will fare much better than those of Fortune, who have large numbers of Slaves to provide for. Engaged on this Topick, we cannot refrain from observing how strangely our views have been misrepresented. By the Association, we intend Nothing that is illegal; we are only resolved to be content with our Home-Spun Manufactures, however mean in Quality, unless Things can be restored to their former Channel, the only Security we desire for what we know our excellent Constitution entitles us to. What your Lordship is pleased to represent as the arbitrary Proceedings of the Committees, we trust will produce none of those very dreadful Effects you have painted in such alarming Colours. The whole Colony, very few excepted, is united; and, from such Union of Sentiments Expectations must be exceedingly sanguine indeed in supposing that Discord will arise.

How the Proceedings of the General Convention, in the Month of March last, may have been represented, we know not; but, from the foregoing Specimens, it is to be presumed in no very favourable Light. These Meetings, my Lord, unless it can be supposed that a whole Country could entirely lose sight of its Security and most essential Interests, were rendered absolutely necessary, first by the dissolution, and afterwards by repeated Prorogations, of the General Assembly. Upon Enquiry into the State of the Colony, it was found that there had been almost a total inattention to the proper training and disciplining of our Militia. Various subsequent Acts of our Legislature, amendatory of the Law of 1738, had expired; the Act providing against Invasions and Insurrections was near expiring, and it was uncertain whether an opportunity would be given the General Assembly to revive it. Taking a farther view of our situation, it was found that our Inhabitants were exposed to the Incursions of a barbarous and savage Enemy. From the best Accounts received from Great Britain, there was too much Reason to be convinced that his Majesty's Ministry were prosecuting the most vigorous and arbitrary Measures towards subjugating the Continent of America to their despotic Rule; which Measures, it is more probable, had been suggested from hence, and the other Colonies: That a Scheme, the most diabolical, had been meditated, and generally recommended, by a Person of great Influence, to offer Freedom to our Slaves, and turn them against their Masters. The Convention, to guard against these Dangers not clearly seen into before that time, recommended a strict attention to the Militia Law¹ of 1738; but thinking this defective in many essential Points, considering that

¹ Hening's V, p. 16.

that under this Law the whole Militia were not obliged to exercise so frequently as might be necessary, it was recommended that volunteer Companies should be formed in each County, for the better Defence and Protection of the whole Country. These Proceedings, according to an unusual Style, it is more than probable, have been represented as designed to oppose Government; whereas, we are persuaded, that Nothing was farther from the Intentions of the Convention. A Review of their Resolutions must convince every unprejudiced Mind that the utmost respect was paid to his Majesty and his legal Government, and that the Convention had much Pleasure in expressing their obligations to your Lordship for your late Services. The Truth is, my Lord, that his Majesty's dutiful Subjects in this Colony have the utmost attachment to their Sovereign; they admire, they love the Constitution and will risk every thing most dear and valuable in support of it. These are Principles imbibed in their Infancy, and their constant Care to inculcate them upon the Minds of their Children; they meditate or design Nothing in the least offensive: But if it is expected that they should fit down supinely, and submit to Yokes which neither they nor their Forefathers were able to bear, they must acknowledge that they have the sensibility of Feelings of Freemen, actuating them to a proper and justifiable Defence of those Rights which are guaranteed by the Laws and Principles of the Constitution.

We have, my Lord, made the strictest and minutest Inquiry into the Causes of the late Disturbances, we find, from the examination of many respectable Merchants, natives of Great Britain residing in different parts of this Colony, and from other Gentlemen of Character, that the Country was in a perfect State of Tranquillity till they received an Account of your Lordship's removal of the Gun-Powder from the publick Magazine, to one of his Majesty's Ships of War, and of your irritating and most unjustifiable Threats.

The Inhabitants of this Country my Lord, could not be strangers to the many Attempts in the Northern Colonies to disarm the People, and thereby depriving them of the only Means of defending their Lives and Property, We know, from good Authority, that the like Measures were generally recommended by the Ministry, and that the Export of Powder from Great Britain had been prohibited, Judge then how very alarming a Removal of the small Stock which remained in the public Magazine, for the Defence of the Country, and the Striping the Guns of their Locks, must have been to any People, who had the Smallest Regard for their Security. The manner and Time, of doing it, made no small Addition to the General Apprehension of your Lordship's Views. The reason assigned by your Lordship for taking this step, we should have thought the most likely, at any other Time, to have dictated a very different Conduct. We should have supposed, that a well-grounded Apprehension of an Insurrection of the Slaves ought to have called forth the utmost exertions to suppress it. The World will probably judge your Lordship's Method of doing this, the least likely to effect the necessary purpose. Your Lordship having represented this Powder as the King's peculiar Property, supposing it to have been brought from one of his Ships, we have made Inquiry into that matter, and cannot find that there ever was any Powder brought either from the Rippon or any other Man of War; so that we presume your Lordship must have been misinformed as to this Fact, since the Powder was removed, as it was not relied on in your Answer to the Address of the Corporation of the City of Williamsburg. Be this, however, as it may, we conceive the Case would not be materially altered. We must remind your Lordship, that, by a very ancient Law¹ of this Country, enacted so long since as the thirty second Year of the Reign of his Majesty King Charles the second, for raising a public Revenue, and for the better support of this Government, amongst other Provisions, an Impost of one half Pound of new Gunpowder, and three Pounds of leaden shot, or one shilling and three Pence sterling, was imposed on all Ships or Vessels coming into this Colony. In the ninth Year of the Reign of Queen Anne, the Impost of one shilling and three pence² on the Tunnage of Vessels was continued, for Port Duties. It is evident, my Lord, that the original and chief design of this particular Impost was to provide, from Time to Time, a proper Stock of Munition for the defence of the Country. We have examined the Produce of this Fund for thirteen Years past, and find that it yielded in that time twenty eight thousand five hundred and three pounds three shillings and nine pence

¹ Hening's, II, p. 466.

² Ibid., III, p. 491.

pence Sterling, which, on an Average, amounted to £2192. 11. Sterling per Annum; and it is observable, that for the four last Years it yielded considerably more than three thousand Pounds in each Year. It may from hence be fairly submitted, whether it was not incumbent on the executive part of Government to have provided, in the first Place, from so large and ample a Fund, a proper stock of Arms and Ammunition, which was so essentially necessary for the Security of the Country. If, my Lord, instead of applying a reasonable Part of this Money to such necessary Purposes, the whole has been applied to other Occasions of Government, and Powder and Arms had been procured through some other Channel, we should presume that these, when stored in the public Magazine, built at the expence of the Country, and appropriated to the safe keeping of the military Stores, ought there to have remained, till the Exigencies of the Country demanded them.

We find, my Lord, that the inhabitants of the City of Williamsburg, in the midst of which the Magazine is situated, upon discovering that the Powder was removed, the Time and manner of its being done, in the dead of Night, under an Escort of armed Marines, commanded by Captain Henry Collins of the Magdalen, were exceedingly alarmed; that many of them were so exasperated that they had recourse to Arms, intending, as we understand, to compel Captain Collins to restore the Powder; but we cannot discover that the least Insult was intended to your Lordship. We find that the Corporation of Williamsburg presented a very decent and respectful Address to your Excellency, desiring that you would be pleased to order the Powder to be returned; and, on Receipt of your verbal Answer, amongst other Things, avowing that it had been removed by your Orders, under which Captain Collins had acted, and promising that it should be returned in case of an Insurrection, the People assembled were soon appeased, returned quietly to their respective Homes, and perfect Tranquillity was restored in the City. That in the succeeding night, on a Report that a number of armed Men had landed at a Ferry about four Miles from the City, the Inhabitants were again much alarmed; but, upon the Interposition of some Gentlemen, they were quieted, and nothing farther was done than strengthening the usual Patrole for the security of the City. We farther find, that on the next Day, when every Thing was perfectly quiet, your Lordship sent a Message into the City by one of the Magistrates, which you delivered with the most solemn Assverations, that if any Insult was offered to Captain Foy or Captain Collins, you would declare Freedom to the Slaves, and lay the Town in Ashes; and that you could easily depopulate the whole Country. What could have provoked your Lordship to this we cannot discover, as both Captain Foy and Captain Collins, and several other Officers, had been frequently seen walking publickly in the Streets, and no one offered either of them the least Injury; nor can we discover any Reason to believe that any Thing of the sort was intended. The Inhabitants my Lord could not but be exceedingly alarmed at so cruel a Threat, many People considered it as a part of that General Plan, they had heard was recommended in England, and which was discovered by your Lordship through Accident, they, however, did nothing more, that we can learn than continue their former Patroles. A Report of these several Matters having soon circulated throughout almost the whole Country, with this Addition, that the most valuable Guns in the Magazine had been stripped of their Locks, and that the Inhabitants of Williamsburg were in the most imminent Danger, the Minds of People in General, were much agitated; they assembled in different Quarters and a number of Expresses were sent to inquire and obtain a true State of Things, It appears, that during this general uneasiness an Account was received from the Northward of the Engagement at Concord;¹ the General it seems, had sent an armed Force to seize a Provincial Magazine. This, your Lordship may suppose, increased the Apprehensions of our People, as it held out to them an additional Proof that the Steps you had taken formed a Part of that general System adopted to render the Colonies defenceless. If upon such Alarms, when the Minds of People were fretted to an extreme Degree, some irregularities were committed, the Causes may be found in those extraordinary Attempts to stretch the Powers of Government so much beyond their ancient and constitutional Limits. It gave the greatest Concern, my Lord, to all acquainted with your most amiable Lady, and her distinguished Character, to hear that she had removed with her Children to one of the King's Ships. We have inquired into the cause of this, and though we do not presume to prescribe to her Ladyship, yet we are persuaded, that, had she

known

¹ Page XX, XXI.

known the Sentiments of all Ranks of People in this Colony, every uneasiness would have been removed. We find, my Lord, that from the great Pains taken by the Magistrates, and 437 other inhabitants of the City of Williamsburg, there could have been no real Ground for fear at the Time of her Ladyship's removal, unless it was produced from your Lordship's Threats, which might have kept the Minds of some of the Citizens in suspense. A few Ladies, it appears, left the City; but it was not through apprehension of any other Danger than what your Lordship held over them. The Inhabitants certainly could have entertained no suspicions of Injury from their Friends in the Country who had kindly offered to come to their Assistance; so that it was in the Power of your Lordship, alone, to have removed her Ladyship's Uneasiness.

It gives us the greatest Pain, my Lord, to find, in your Excellency's Message, so determined a Resolution to pursue a Course the most likely to revive the Uneasiness of the People, and prevent that Restoration of Harmony so ardently wished for by all good Men. You are pleased to submit to our "Judgment, whether you would reasonably have expected any good Effect from communicating the Ground of your Uneasiness to us." We give it as our Opinion, that your Lordship had the greatest Reason, if you had viewed our Conduct in its proper light, to have expected the best Effects from such Communication, as we met your Lordship in General Assembly with the sincerest Dispositions to do every Thing in our Power to provide for the tranquillity of the Country. The Reasons assigned for your contrary Apprehensions, we are persuaded, must have been suggested to your Lordship by some designing, malevolent Informer. We can hardly suppose your Lordship could have had any well-grounded Fear of personal Danger, when it is notorious that you appeared publickly, as usual; and it is in Proof to us, that the same Night in which you left the Palace you walked alone to the Attorney General's, at the Distance of upwards of a quarter of a 438 Mile, and returned unmolested; and we cannot discover that even the Slightest Insult was offered. If you judge of the disposition of the House of Burgesses, as to publick Matters from their declining to accept an invitation to dine with your Lordship, (the instance of Respect and Civility alluded to, and which you say you had been forward in offering to them) you have intirely mistaken their Motives. A piece of Civility of this sort had formerly its due Weight with us; but we had little Reason to suppose that such a Ceremony would, at this Time, be attended, on your Lordship's Part, with that Cordiality, which we thought we had observed on former Occasions. How could your Lordship think of admitting to your Table a sett of Men, whom, together with the whole Body of their Constituents, you had endeavoured to paint in such despicable and odious Colours? That the House of Burgesses, my Lord, ever countenance the violent and disorderly Proceedings of the People, we must, in justice to ourselves, take Leave to deny. As to the Magazine's being rifled, which you are pleased to insinuate was done with the approbation of the House, we must say, that in this also the greatest Injustice is done to us. The House was sitting, closely engaged in Publick Business, when this Affair happened. Some of our Members, as we believe the Truth is upon hearing what was going forward at the Magazine, went up in Hopes of preventing it. We are informed, that a great Concource of People, from different Parts of the Country, were assembled, and that many of the Arms had been taken out of the Magazine several of the Members, as private Gentlemen remonstrated with all the People they met with against such Proceedings, and prevailed with them to return what they had taken. When your Lordship was pleased to accuse the House of Burgesses of usurping the "executive Power," from what happened on this Occasion, we presume it would have been well to have considered 439 with what Propriety they could have interfered: Had they made an Order for apprehending the Persons concerned, who were unknown, it would have been fruitless, and moreover a plain departure from the Line of their Authority. Such a step your Lordship might indeed have justly censured as an Usurpation of the executive Power, Or would your Lordship have recommended to the individual Members to have acted as Bailiffs, in seising all Offenders they met with? We never have, nor will we ever give Countenance to such unjustifiable Proceedings as happened that day. Your Acquaintance, my Lord, with Mankind, must suggest to you the Difficulty there is in restraining an incensed Multitude. Many People, the irritation of whose Minds had but lately subsided, we understand had been again greatly alarmed

alarmed at a late unfortunate Accident, which happened to some inconsiderate young Men in their unlawful Attempt to furnish themselves with Arms out of the Magazine; and Attempt, my Lord, which we condemn as highly as your Lordship can. But whether some little Apology may not be suggested, from that universal anxiety which all Mankind have to prepare for the Defence of their Lives and Property, we will not determine; the Point is delicate, and we leave the World to judge of it. But the means contrived in pursuance of your Lordship's Orders, by which an unfortunate Culprit might probably have been hurried into Eternity, without a Moment's Time for reflection, we conceive we can do no great Honour to Humanity which, we should have supposed, would have dictated the Necessity of at least giving publick Notice that spring Guns were prepared and fixed; which, it is imagined, ⁴⁴⁰ would have answered every Purpose of Security to the Magazine. Your Lordship's Reflections on our Committee and them, upon this whole House, we think might have been spared, after what passed early in the Session. Had the Committee misbehaved, we should not have been backward in taking proper Notice of it. When we received your Lordships very temperate Message respecting their Conduct, we addressed your Excellency, in hopes, by having matters properly explained, of removing all Umbrage you might have taken. Your Lordship's reply to this Message induced us to believe that you were satisfied; but it seems we must again enter on the same subject, or remain exposed to the Weight of your Lordship's Censure. Reflecting on what had happened, the House judged it an indispensable Duty they owed their Constituents to inquire into the state of the Publick Magazine; and, before they knew of the late Disturbances, appointed a Committee for that Purpose. The Committee, previous to their taking any other Step, waited upon your Excellency, and, in the most respectful manner, desired that you would be pleased to direct the Keeper of the Magazine to give them Access thereto. The Key was delivered to them, by your Lordship's Orders. They, at the same time, informed your Excellency of the Confusion that had happened; and that they had, to prevent the like Depredations, requested some Gentlemen of the Town to guard the Magazine, till proper Measures could be taken for its farther Security, which your Lordship did not make the least Objection to. There had been, by your Excellency's Permission, a considerable quantity of Copper Money, belonging to the Country, lodged in the Magazine. This was an additional Reason for the Committee's taking a Precaution, which your Lordship is pleased to call "ordering and appointing Guards, without consulting you, to mount in the City of Williamsburg and a design to usurp the ⁴⁴¹ executive Power." The Committee did not pretend any authority to mount Guard; and had your Lordship disliked what they thought a prudent step in the then confused State of Things, it would have been kind in your Lordship to have intimated as much. Upon the Committee's Enquiry they found, indeed that there was little worth guarding in the Magazine; the Powder having been all removed, except about five half Barrels, buried by your Excellency's order in the yard, for what Purpose we cannot conceive, and all of the valuable Muskets having been spoiled of their Locks.

Your Lordship speaks of a Body of Men assembled in the City of Williamsburg, not only to the "Knowledge, but with the approbation of every Body, for the avowed purpose of attacking a Party of the King's Forces, which it was reported, tho' without Foundation, was marching to your Lordship's Protection."

We know of no men, my Lord, assembled for the purpose you mention, though you are pleased to say it was done with the "Knowledge and Approbation of every Body;" in which Number, we suppose, the House of Burgesses were particularly designed to be included. Upon the best information, the truth appears to be this: An Account was brought into the City in the Morning, that Captain Collins, of the Magdalen, had slipped his Cable, and was come up the River with a number of Boats, in which there was said to be an hundred armed Men at least, intended to be Marched into the City. It could not be conceived what was proposed by this Manoeuvre; the City was quiet, and we believe no Man in it suspected that your Lordship could have the least Apprehension that your Person was in Danger; nor had we the smallest Suspicion of your fears, till the receipt of your former Message, acquainting us of your Removal. The Citizens, however, as well as others, were astonished and somewhat alarmed, not knowing what was intended. Your Lordship may remember, ⁴⁴² that

that his Majesty's Council, from their Address to your Excellency, were not without their Apprehensions. A number of the Inhabitants, and we suppose some others, but how many we know not, assembled under Arms, that they might be prepared to defend the City and its Inhabitants, in case anything hostile should be attempted. This, we are convinced, was their only view. Upon their being made acquainted with your Lordship's Answer to the Council, we understood that they all immediately retired peaceably and quietly, without any disturbance. The City was again at rest, and continued composed, till they heard of your Lordship's removal with your Family in the dead of Night, as if you could have supposed that any one would have attempted to offer you any Obstruction, or, to interfere with your Inclinations.

This extraordinary step, which none could Account for, occasioned great Consternation in the City; and we believe would surprize the whole World, were they acquainted with it. We have already, my Lord, in a former Address, of which according to Custom, a Copy was left with you, and which you directed to have presented on a certain Day, long since past, without your giving us an opportunity of doing it, assigned the Reasons why we could not interpose our Legislative Authority respecting the Courts of Justice.

The Occasion and Design of forming Independent Companies at first, and the Rise of Voluntier Companies afterwards, we have already explained, and cannot see the Necessity of abolishing them. They are not designed to interfere with your Lordship's full exercise of the legal and constitutional Powers of your Government, which we would wish to have supported on all Occasions; and are of Opinion that the Laws in force are competent to that End. But, if it is expected that the Country should again be thrown into a defenceless State, Self-Preservation, the first Law of Nature, forbids it, If your Lordship were really apprehensive that your Person was in Danger, the tender of the Council and this House, of their most effectual Assistance to remove every appearance of Risk, we were hopeful would have quieted all your Fears. A proper Guard, at the publick Expense, would have been at your Service, had you judged it necessary. Your Lordship's declining to propose such Measures as we, consistent with our own Security, could accept, and demanding what you must have known was not in our Power to comply with, affords no strong Evidence of your Inclination to restore Tranquillity to this Country. Those who have taken any of his Majesty's public Store of Arms are open to the Law, which has its full Operation, as heretofore; and we wish not to interrupt its Course. But surely your Lordship cannot expect us, by any new Act, which would be *ex post facto*, in the most odious sense of the Words, to inflict other Pains and Penalties for Offences already committed. This, we conceive, would be the greatest Infringement of a fundamental Principle of our Excellent Constitution. Such a practice may, indeed, have obtained under another Meridian; but it is not, my Lord, of American Growth. Whether that Spirit of Persecution, which your Lordship has been pleased to describe, prevails in this Country we appeal to the Evidence which appears on our Journals. Were those, and those only, to be considered as persecuted Men, who from Principles and duty are attached to their King and his Government, we ourselves, my Lord, should fall under this Predicament; and perhaps may, with Justice, think Humanity disgraced by such Proceedings. That some few People may have been deluded, we shall not question; the utmost Pains, we know, have been taken, in different Colonies, to alarm them with the "disfigured fide of American" story, and to render them deaf and blind to their true Interest and Political Salvation. So far as our Example can influence the People of this Country in preserving their loyalty to his Majesty, a proper respect to Government, and the good Order of Society, your Lordship may be assured that it shall be made as diffusive as possible.

We have, my Lord, the sincerest and most active desire to seize every opportunity of establishing the Freedom of our Country upon a fixed and "known foundation," and of uniting ourselves with our Fellow Subjects of Great Britain in one common Bond of Interest and natural Affection. But we have no "Doubts" of what such Freedom consists in; it is written, as with a Sun-Beam, on our Hearts. We are equally sensible of those essentials, which alone can admit us to the Participation of a just Proportion of the common Interest; but, for the Variety of cogent Reasons assigned by our Address in Answer to your Lordship's

ship's Speech, we cannot view the *Proposal of the House of Commons in the same Light* your Lordship seems to do.

The important Busines of the Assembly, my Lord, has been not a little interrupted by your Excellency's Removal from the proper Seat of your Government. As to your Lordship's offer, that we might adjourn to the Town of York, we think this would be extremely improper on several Accounts. The town of York, could not afford tolerable Accommodations for so numerous an Assembly; and, which is of more Consequence, we humbly conceive that this, and this place alone, is established by Law for holding our General Assemblies. If there are any Hopes left of your Excellency's Compliance, we must reiterate our Request that you will be pleased to return with your Family to the Palace, for the Reasons assigned in our former Address. We feel, most sensibly, the disagreeable situation your Excellent Lady must be in. But if, after all, your Lordship is determined to persist in your Resolution of Absence, we must endeavour to rest satisfied; conscious that, whilst we have been solicitous to do justice to our Constituents and ourselves, we have not been wanting in the Respect which is due to the Representative of our most gracious Sovereign. 445

We cannot, my Lord, but consider the Representatives of the Body of the People, when convened in Assembly, as part of that great and General Council which our Constitution hath fixed for advising our Governors in all Matters respecting the Public Weal. His Majesty's Honorable Council are especially appointed for this purpose; they are well acquainted with our Constitution; their Duty to his Majesty will urge them to support the Prerogative of the Crown, at the same time that their Justice should lead them to maintain the Rights of the People. We, therefore (sincerely regarding your Lordship's Tranquillity and Happiness, as well as the Important Interests of this whole Community) think ourselves loudly called upon to give it as our best Advice that your Lordship will be pleased to advise with your proper and constitutional Council in all Matters of Importance, and not suffer yourself to be influenced by designing Men; but that you will banish all such from your Presence, as the greatest Enemies to your own Repose, and the real Happiness of this extensive Country.

The said Address being read a secon^d time;

Resolved, nemine contradicente, that the Houfe, doth agree with the Committee 446 in the said Address, to be presented to the Governor.

Ordered, that the said Address be presented to his Excellency by Mr Cary, Mr Braxton, Mr Wood, Mr Jones, Mr Zane, Mr Page and Mr Berkeley.

Mr Treasurer reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill for appointing Commissioners to ratify and confirm the late treaty of Peace with the *Ohio Indians*, was committed, that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made several Amendments thereunto which they had directed him to report to the Houfe; and he read the report in his Place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendments, in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendments were once read throughout, and then a secon^d time, one by one, and, upon the Question severally put thereupon, were, with an Amendment to one of them, agreed to by the Houfe.

Ordered, that the Bill, with the Amendments, be engrossed.

A *Petition* of the Trustees and other Inhabitants of the Town of *Alexandria*, in the County of *Fairfax*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that since the passing of the *Act of General Assembly*, made in the fourth year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled *An Act¹ for encouraging the settlement of the Towns of Alexandria and Falmouth, and for other purposes therein mentioned*, by which it was enacted, among other things, that the purchasers of Lots in the said Town should not be subject or liable to any forfeiture for neglecting or failing to build thereon, the Trade of the said Town hath very considerably increased, and many Merchants and Tradesmen are very desirous of settling and residing there, but cannot be accommodated with Stores, which the Proprietors of the vacant Lots neglect to build, not being obliged to do so; and that the *Act of General Assembly*, made in the twelfth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled *an Act² to encourage the further settlement of the Town of Alexandria* 447

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 49.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 613.

dria in the County of Fairfax, hath not produced the good effects intended thereby, the forfeiture of certain Marsh-lots, belonging to infants, and persons out of the Country, being saved by the Provision in the said Act contained; and therefore praying that other lands adjoining the said Town may be added to the same, and made part thereof, that the owners of lots unimproved may be compelled to build upon them within a reasonable time, and that effectual measures may be pursued for draining and improving the said Marsh lots.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon to the House

Mr *Nelson* presented to the House, according to order, a Bill¹ to dock the entail of certain lands, whereof Lewis Burwell is seized; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

A Petition of the inhabitants of the Town of *Alexandria*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the Act of General Assembly, to prevent the raising of Hogs, and suffering them to run at large within the said Town, had not effected the purpose; and therefore praying that a fine or tax may be imposed upon the offenders against the said Act, and that Goats and Geese may not be raised, nor suffered to go at large in the said Town.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

⁴⁴⁸ Mr *Braxton* reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill,² for appointing an Agent, was committed, that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made an Amendment thereunto, which they had directed him to report to the House, and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendment, in at the Clerk's Table.

Ordered, that the said Report be taken into Consideration tomorrow.

Mr *Cary* reported from the Committee of public Claims, to whom the Petition of *Elizabeth Croley* had been referred, and to whom the same was recommitted, that the Committee had further considered the matter of the said Petition, and had directed him to report the same, as it appeared to them, together with the Resolution of the Committee thereupon, to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*:

It appears to your Committee, that *Samuel Croley*, the husband of the Petitioner having been a Soldier, under the Command of Colonel *Andrew Lewis*, on the late *Indian* expedition, was killed in the engagement on the tenth day of *October* last; and that the Petitioner and several small Children are now left in a helpless situation by the death of the said *Samuel* on whom they entirely depended for support, having no possible means of maintaining themselves.

Whereupon the Committee came to the following Resolution:

⁴⁴⁹ *Resolved*, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the said Petition is reasonable; and that the sum of twenty five Pounds ought to be allowed the Petitioner for the present Relief of herself and her Children, and that the further sum of ten Pounds, per Annum, for ten Years, ought to be allowed, and deposited in the hands of the Churchwardens for the time being of *Cambden* Parish, in the County of *Pittsylvania*, which annuity is to be for the use of the said Petitioner and Children during her widowhood, and, after her death or marriage, to be applied towards the maintenance of the Children, for the remainder of the Term.

The

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 663.

² Original Act—Hening's, VII, p. 276.

The said *Resolution*, being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Resolved, that the sum of twenty five Pounds be paid to *Elizabeth Croley*, widow, and that ten pounds, per annum, for the term of ten Years, be paid to the Churchwardens of the Parish of *Cambden*, in the County of *Pittsylvania*, for the use of the said *Elizabeth Croley*, during her Widowhood, and her Children by *Samuel Croley*, and for the use and towards the maintenance of the said Children after the death or marriage of their Mother.

Ordered, that M^r *Cary* to carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

A *Petition* of *Alexander Purdie* was presented to the House, and read; praying to be allowed for printing the proceedings of the Convention at *Richmond* in *March* last; and that such allowance be for the benefit of the Orphans of M^rs *Rind*.

A *Motion* was made, and the Question being put, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of a Committee;

It passed in the Negative.

The House proceeded to take into Consideration the Amendments made by the Council to the Bill, intituled *An Act¹ to empower the Vestry of the Parish of Saint John, in the County of King William to sell the Glebe of the said Parish, and for other Purposes therein mentioned.*

And the said *Amendments* were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Line 11. After "Purpose," leave out, "or to put it out upon Interest, for the use and benefit of the Minister of the said Parish, for the time being forever."

Line 23. After "Glebe," leave out, "or put out upon Interest, on sufficient landed Security, for the use and Benefit of the Minister of the said Parish, for the Time being, forever, as to the said Vestry may appear most advisable and best."

The said Amendments, being severally read a second time, upon the question severally put thereupon, were agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that M^r *Braxton* do carry the Bill to the Council, and acquaint them, that this House hath agreed to the Amendments made by them.

An engrossed *Bill*, for the Ease and Relief of the People, by paying the Burgeesses Wages in Money was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act¹ for the Ease and relief of the People, by paying the Burgeesses Wages in Money.*

Ordered, that M^r *Henry Lee* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

M^r *Cary*, reported, from the Committee of public Claims, to whom the Petition of *James George, Thomas Flowers, John Pemberton, Elisha Dyer, James Murphy, Henry Mitchell, and Laurence Burkholder* was referred; that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petition, and had directed him to report the same, as it appeared to them, together with the Resolution of the Committee thereupon, to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

It appears to your Committee, that certain Persons, of the name of *Cook*, accused of forging treasury Bills, having been apprehended on the Governor's Warrant, in the County of *Pittsylvania*, the Sheriff impounded several Horses and Guns of the Petitioners, for the Use of the Guards, who attended the Prisoners to the public Gaol; that a Mare, the property of the said *Thomas Flowers*, appraised to five Pounds died, the next day after she was returned to her owner; that two Horses, the property of the said *Elisha Dyer*, were damaged to the value of five Pounds, and a horse the property of the said *James Murphy*, to the value of two Pounds; and that the Guns were lost through neglect of the Sheriff and Guards.

Whereupon

¹ Not recorded as a law.

Whereupon the *Committee* came to the following Resolutions:

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that so much of the said Petition as relates to damage done the Horses, is reasonable; and that the said *Thomas Flowers* ought to be allowed the sum of five Pounds, for the loss of his said Mare, and that the said *Elisha Dyer* ought to be allowed the sum of five Pounds, and that the said *James Murphy* the sum of two Pounds, for the damage done their said Horses.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that so much of the said Petition as relates to the Guns, be rejected.

452 The said *Resolutions*, being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon agreed to by the House.

An engrossed *Bill*, for establishing the Town of *Helenburg*, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be *An Act¹ for establishing the Town of Helenburg*.

Ordered, that Mr *Henry Lee* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Mr *Cary* reported, from the Committee of public Claims, to whom several Petitions were referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petitions, and had come to several Resolutions, which they had directed him to Report to the House: and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *Robert Slaughter*, Senior be allowed for two Hogsheads of Tobacco lost in the Fresh, in the Year 1770, which were omitted, through mistake, of the inspectors in the list given in to the Commissioners, appointed to settle the same, is reasonable; and that the Petitioner ought to be allowed the sum of Eighteen Pounds fifteen shillings and sevenpence three farthings for the said Tobacco.

453 *Resolved*, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *Dudley Martin*, a Soldier, in the late Expedition against the *Shawanese* Towns, who was wounded in the Engagement, on the second day of *August* last, with a Ball, which passed through his right shoulder, and deprived him of the use of his Arm, and rendered him unable to support himself by Labour, is reasonable; and that he ought to be allowed the sum of twenty Pounds for his present relief, and the further sum of ten Pounds, per Annum, during his life; as a recompence for the wound he received in the service of this Colony.

The said *Resolutions*, being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Resolved, that the sum of twenty Pounds be paid to *Dudley Martin*, a wounded Soldier, and that the sum of ten Pounds, per Annum, be paid to him, during his life.

Ordered, that Mr *Cary* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, ten of the Clock.

Tuesday.

¹ Not recorded as a law.

Tuesday, the 20th of June, 15 Geo. III. 1775.

A NOTHER Member, having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and subscribed the Test, took his place in the House.

Ordered, that Mr Christian be added to the Committee of Public Claims.

An engrossed Bill to continue an Act, intituled *An Act to make provision for the support and maintenance of Ideots, Lunatics, and other Persons of unsound Minds*, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act to continue and Amend an Act, intituled An Act¹ to make Provision for the support and Maintenance of Ideots, Lunatics, and other Persons of unsound Minds*.

Ordered, that Mr Jones do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

A Petition of Timothy Kelly was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, ⁴⁵⁴ that the Petitioner, having been employed as a Guard to the Army, under the Command of the Governor, in the late expedition against the Indian Towns, hath, since the conclusion of the Peace with the Shawaneese, remained with, and acted as an Interpreter to, the Indian Hostages by direction of his Excellency; and therefore praying the House to make him some allowance.

Ordered, that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of Public Claims; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

An engrossed Bill to continue An Act, intituled *An Act to prevent the exorbitant exactions of the Collectors of the County and Parish levies* was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act to continue and amend an Act intituled An Act² to prevent the exorbitant Exactions, of the Collectors of the County and Parish levies*.

Ordered, that Mr Jones do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Mr Digges reported from the Committee, to whom the Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands, in the County of York, whereof Robert Matthews and Anne his Wife are seised, in her right, and for settling other Lands to the same Uses, was committed, that the Committee had examined the Allegations of the Bill, and found the same to be true; and that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made several Amendments thereunto, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendments, in at the Clerk's Table; where the Amendments were once read throughout, and then, a second time one by one, and, upon the Question severally put thereupon, were agreed to by the House. ⁴⁵⁵

Ordered, that the Bill, with the Amendments be engrossed.

An engrossed Bill for appointing Commissioners to ratify and confirm the late treaty of Peace with the Ohio Indians, was read the third Time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act³ for appointing Commissioners to ratify and confirm the late Treaty of Peace with the Ohio Indians*.

Ordered, that Mr Treasurer do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

Mr Nelson presented to the House, according to Order, a Bill to empower Trustees to sell certain intailed Lands, whereof William Digges, the younger, Esquire, is seised, and for settling other Lands and Slaves, to be purchased, in lieu thereof; and the same was received, and read the first time.

Resolved, that the Bill be read a second time.

An engrossed Bill to repeal the Act of General Assembly, made in the twelfth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled *An Act⁴ to amend an Act, intituled An Act for better preservation of the breed of Deer and preventing unlawful hunting so far as the same relates to certain Counties* was read the third time.

Resolved,

¹ Hening's, IX, p. 173.

² Ibid., VIII, p. 381.

³ Not recorded as a law.

⁴ Hening's, VIII, p. 591.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act to repeal part of the Act of General Assembly, made in the twelfth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled An Act¹ to amend An Act, intituled An Act for better preservation of the breed of Deer, and preventing unlawful hunting.*

Ordered, that Mr Carrington do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

456 The *order* of the Day being read, for taking into Consideration the Report, which was made from the Committee, to whom the Bill for appointing an Agent, was committed;

Ordered, that the said Report be taken into Consideration Tomorrow.

The other *order* of the Day being read;

Ordered, that the Call of the House be further adjourned till Tomorrow.

Mr Jones reported from the Committee for Courts of Justice, to whom the Petition of the Attorney's, practicing in the County Courts of *Augusta, Dunmore, Frederick, Hampshire, and Berkeley*, was referred, that the Committee had examined the matter of the said Petition, and had come to several Resolutions, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that so much of the said Petition as relates to the alteration of the Court Day of the said County of *Dunmore*, from the fourth *Tuesday*, in each Month, to the second *Monday*, and also the Court-Day of the said County of *Hampshire*, from the second *Tuesday* in each Month, to the last *Monday* is reasonable.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the residue of the said Petition be rejected.

The said *Resolutions*, being read a second time, were upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, that a Bill be brought in pursuant to the first of the said Resolutions; and that the said Committee do prepare, and bring in the same.

457 A Bill to revive an Act, intituled *An Act² for reducing the several Acts of Assembly, for making Provision against invasions and insurrections, into one Act*, was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Resolved, that this House will, Tomorrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House upon the said Bill.

A Bill to revive an Act, intituled *An Act³ for the better regulating and disciplining the Militia*, was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Resolved, that this House will, Tomorrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House upon the said Bill.

A Bill for dissolving the Vestry of *Frederick* Parish, in the County of *Frederick*, was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to the Committee for Religion.

A Message from the Council by Mr Blair:

Mr Speaker,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act⁴ to dock the intail of certain Lands, whereof James Scott, the younger, is seised, and for settling other lands in lieu thereof, without any Amendment; and also,

The

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 591. ² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 514. ³ *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 503. ⁴ Not recorded as a law.

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act¹ for establishing the Town of Helensburg without any Amendment.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

A Bill to amend an Act, intituled *An Act² to regulate the Inoculation of the Small Pox, within this Colony* was read a second time.

Resolved, that the Bill be committed to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

M^r Richard Lee reported from the Committee of public Claims, to whom several Petitions were referred, that the Committee had examined the matters of the said Petitions, and come to several Resolutions, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *Abraham Hite, Thomas Rutherford, and James Wood*, to be allowed for their Service, in opening a Road from the Frontiers of this Colony, to *Fort Pitt* on the *Ohio*, is reasonable; and that the said *Abraham Hite* ought to be allowed the sum of eighteen Pounds and fifteen Shillings, the said *Thomas Rutherford*, the sum of nine Pounds, and the said *James Wood* the sum of twelve Pounds and fifteen shillings, for the said Service.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *John James Wood, Henry Baker, and John Wood*, to be allowed for their travelling, attendance, and ferriages, as Witnesses for the King against *Joseph Fry* and others for a misdemeanor, is reasonable, and that the said *John James Wood* and *Henry Baker* ought to be allowed seven hundred and fifty two pounds of Tobacco, each, and the said *John Wood* nine hundred and two pounds of Tobacco, for the same.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petition of *James Galt* to be allowed, for himself, as keeper, and for his Wife, as Matron, of the public Hospital, is reasonable; and that the Petitioner ought to be allowed for the same, at the rate of one hundred Pounds, per Annum, from the thirteenth day of *September, 1773*, to the twentieth day of *June, 1775*, out of which allowance is to be deducted the sum of one hundred Pounds, he having already received so much from the Treasury, by order of the Court of Directors; so that the balance, now remaining to be paid him, by the Public, is Seventy seven Pounds one shilling and eight pence.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the sum of one hundred Pounds, per Annum, ought to be allowed to the said *James Galt*, for his Salary, as keeper of the Public Hospital.

The two first Resolutions of the Committee, being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

The third Resolution of the Committee, being read a second time, an Amendment was proposed to be made thereunto, by leaving out the Words, "one hundred," and inserting the words, "one hundred and twenty five," instead thereof.

And the Question being put, that the Words, "one hundred" stand part of the said Resolution;

It passed in the Negative.

And the Question being put, that the Words "one hundred and twenty five" be inserted instead thereof;

It was resolved in the affirmative.

Another Amendment was proposed to be made to the said Resolution, by leaving out the Words, "Seventy seven Pounds one shilling and eight pence," and inserting the Words "One hundred and twenty one Pounds and seven shillings," instead thereof.

And

¹ Not recorded as a law. ² Hening's, VIII, p. 371.

460 And the *Question* being put, that the Words, "Seventy seven Pounds one shilling and eight pence," stand part of the said Resolution;

It passed in the Negative.

And the *Question* being put that the Words, "one hundred and twenty one Pounds and seven Shillings," be inserted instead thereof;

It was *resolved* in the Affirmative.

Resolved, that this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution, so amended, that the Petition of *James Galt* to be allowed, for himself, as keeper, and for his Wife, as Matron, of the Public Hospital, is reasonable; and that the Petitioner ought to be allowed for the same, at the rate of one hundred and twenty five Pounds, per Annum, from the thirteenth day of *September*, 1773, to the twentieth day of *June*, 1775, out of which allowance is to be deducted the sum of one hundred Pounds, he having already received so much from the Treasurer, by order of the Court of Directors; so that the balance, now remaining to be paid him by the Public, is one hundred and twenty one Pounds and seven shillings.

The subsequent *Resolution* of the Committee being read a second time, an amendment was proposed to be made thereunto, by inserting, after the Word, "Keeper," the Words "and the further sum of twenty five Pounds per Annum for the services of his Wife, as Matron."

And the said *Amendment* was, upon the *Question* put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Resolved, that this House doth agree with the Committee, in the said Resolution so amended.

461 *Resolved*, that the sum of one hundred Pounds, per Annum, be paid to *James Galt*, for his Salary, as Keeper, and that the further sum of twenty five Pounds, per Annum, be paid to him, for the services of his Wife, as Matron, of the public Hospital.

Ordered, that M^r *Richard Lee* do carry the *Resolution* to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

M^r *Nelson* reported from the Committee of Trade, to whom the Report of the Persons named in the Act of General Assembly, made in the twelfth Year of his present Majesty, intituled *An Act¹ for opening the falls of James River, by Subscription, and for other purposes*, was referred, that the Committee had come to several *Resolutions*, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his place and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the *Resolutions* of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz*:

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the following Allowances ought to be made to the Persons hereinafter named for Expences and other disbursements attending the Surveys and making the Estimates, in the said Report mentioned, *viz*.

To James Holt, <i>Esquire for Cash paid the Norfolk chain carriers, for 3 days attendance and finding them Provisions.</i>	}	£ 2. 2. 6.
To James Holt <i>Esquire for Cash paid Isaac Hilditch's Expences in viewing the Lands.</i>		1. 14. 6.
To James Holt <i>for Cash paid James Taits Expences, viewing lands, and travelling from and to Williamsburg.</i>	}	2. 14. 2.
To Peter Singleton, <i>for Cash paid the Princess Anne Chain Carriers, for 2 days attendance, and finding them Provisions.</i>		2. 5.
To Josiah Ives, <i>deputy Surveyor of Norfolk for his Services.</i>	}	7. 10.
		To

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 564.

To Thomas Reynolds Walker, <i>Surveyor of Princeſ Anne, for his Services.</i>	{	7. 10.
To Isaac Hildrith, <i>for his Services for taking a level drawing Plan of a Lock, viewing the lands, and making an Estimate.</i>		15.
To James Tait, <i>for his Services, going from Williamsburg, viewing the Lands, and making an Estimate.</i>		7. 10.

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Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the further Consideration of the said Report be deferred till the next Session of General Assembly.

The said *Resolutions*, being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

A *Petition* of *John Pinkney* was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that he performed the duty of *Printer* to the Colony, for nine Months, from the death of *Mrs Rind*, until the appointment of *Mr Purdie* to that Office; and therefore praying that the usual Salary of the Public *Printer* be paid to the Petitioner, for the time aforesaid.

Resolved, that the sum of three hundred and thirty seven Pounds and ten shillings be paid to *John Pinkney*, for performing the duty of public *Printer*, since the death of *Mrs Rind*.

Ordered, that *Mr Henry Lee* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

A *Message* from the Council by *Mr Blair*:

Mr Speaker,

I am commanded by the Council to deliver to this House a paper, which they have received from the Governor, as his Excellency's answer to the last joint Address of the Council and of this House; and he presented the said Paper at the Bar.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

The said *Paper* was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Experience having shewn the Insecurity of the Publick Magazine, and the Palace having hitherto been respected, I think it improper to give any other orders than that the Arms belonging to the King, which have for so many Years been lodged may still remain there; and that they may on no Account be touched without my express permission.

Mr Cary reported that the joint *Address* of the Council and this House, of Saturday last, and the two *Address*es of this House, of the same Day, and likewise the *Address*es of *Yeſterday*, to the Governor, had been severally presented to his Excellency, who directed him to acquaint the House that he had ſent his *Answer*, to the first, to the Council, and delivered to him two *Papers*, in *Answer* to the ſecond and third *Address*es, which *Papers* he delivered in at the Clerk's Table, and which were read, and are in the words following, *to wit*

This Address acknowledging the highest Sense of the Services I rendered to this Country on the late Indian Expedition, though late will ſtill, I hope, do credit to the Justice of the House of Burgeſſes.

As the Care Custody and disposal of publick Stores of Ammunition belong alone to the Kings Representative, I cannot conſent to return the Powder, lately removed from the Magazine, to Williamsburg, which, experience has demonstrated to me, is an improper place for the residence of the Governor, therefore as I could not attend to its preservation, I could not conſequently depend upon its being in ſecurity there: the Powder in question beſides, you have already been acquainted belonged to one of His Majesty's Ships; I am therefore in a particular manner accountable for it; but, as I have before declared, I ſhall be ready to apply it, if I find it wanted for the Protection of the Colony.

The

464 The duty upon the Tonnage of all Vessels trading to this Colony has been applied as I conceive the Act which imposes that Duty authorises, towards the regular and necessary charges of Government, which without this fund could not have been supported and therefore requires it all. This Colony has hitherto been preserved from Invasion and Insurrection by the Care and attention of Government; and you have a very late Instance of its exertion, through the means of which the Country has been rescued from the destruction it was threatened with, which as it proves the contrary of an inattention to any matters essential to the preservation of this Colony, So it exposes the injustice of your present attempt, if it does not induce you to forbear others, of bringing your legal and Constitutional Government, at this unhappy Conjuncture, into discredit among the People.

As to your request that I order a certain quantity of Arms, Powder and other Military Stores to be provided;—When you have complied with the requisition Submitted to your consideration in consequence of the Joint address of the Council and House of Burgesses offering to concur in any measure proper for my Security, which requisition has been taken no notice of; and when the legal executive Power of Government is restored, and I may with certainty rely that Arms Powder and other Military Stores Will be employed no otherwise than as I shall direct, who as his Majesty's Representative have the sole Authority in the Case, then I shall be happy, with the means you furnish me, to provide everything, and I promise you no attention shall be neglected, which may be requisite for securing the Inhabitants of Virginia from Invasion and Insurrection.

Ordered, that the said Papers in Answer to the said Addresses be taken into Consideration Tomorrow.

465 M^r Cary also, reported, that his Excellency directed him to acquaint the House, that he would send an Answer to the last Address, if he should find that it required one:

Ordered, that the thanks of this House be given to Captain James Innes, of the Voluntier Company of Williamsburg, and the Persons employed by him to guard the public Magazine in this City, for the Alacrity, fidelity, and Activity with which they undertook and performed that Service; and that M^r Braxton do acquaint him herewith.

Ordered, that the Committee of public Claims do state an Account of all sums of Money due from the public for Slaves condemned and executed, and of such other Claims as have been agreed by the House to be paid to the Claimants, except those in the Resolves for payment of which the Council have concurred, and report the same with the Salaries to the Officers of the General Assembly in a Schedule, to the House.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning ten of the Clock.

Wednesday, the 21st of June, 15 Geo. III. 1775.

THE House, according, to order, proceeded to take into Consideration the Papers sent by the Governor in answer to the address of the Council and this House, and to the Addresses of this House.

And the said *Papers* were read.

Resolved, that a free conference be desired with the Council upon several important matters, respecting the state of this Colony, and the subject matter of his Excellency the Governor's message, in answer to the joint Address of the Council and this House.

Ordered, that M^r Bland do go to the Council, and desire the said free Conference.

A Message from the Council by Mr Blair:

Mr Speaker,

The Council do agree to the free Conference desired by this House, and have appointed three of their Members, who are now ready in the Conference Chamber, to meet the Managers for this House.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to manage the said Conference:

And a Committee was appointed of Mr Bland, Mr Treasurer, Mr Cary, Mr Digges, Mr Jones, and Mr Nelson.

Ordered, that the said Managers for this House do lay before the Managers for the Council the several Depositions taken by order of this House, upon the inquiry into the causes of the late disturbances, and that they communicate to them the Address of this House, requesting his Lordship to return the Powder removed from the public Magazine, by his order and that he would be pleased to provide a proper quantity of Arms and Ammunition for the necessary security and defence of this Country, together with his Lordship's answer thereto. To propose to the Council to join this House in a proper Address to his Excellency, in reply to his Message, in answer to their former joint Address, and also on the subject of the several Papers, to be communicated to them. To represent to his Excellency how much the important business of the Session hath been impeded by his removal from the palace, by which the necessary, and free access to his Lordship, which we conceive the constitution intitles us to, hath been cut off in a great measure; that there are several Bills of the last importance to this Country now ready to be presented to his Excellency for his Assent, and that tho' both Houses, in hopes of preserving that harmony, which they wish ever to subsist between the different Branches of the legislature, have hitherto submitted to the great inconvenience of travelling twelve Miles, and going on board one of his Majesty's Ships, to deliver their several Addresses; yet they think it would be highly improper, and a step not warranted by any principle of the Constitution, to present their Bills in the same manner. That they therefore desire his Lordship will be pleased to meet them in the Capitol, or, if he is determined not to do this, that he would be pleased at least to come on shore, and they will wait upon his Excellency in York town, upon having his pleasure signified to them. That as the advanced season of the Year requires our speedy return to our several Counties, we hope his lordship will be pleased to give us his ultimate answer, as soon.

Then the names of the Managers were called over; and they went to the Conference.

And being returned;

Mr Bland reported, that the Managers had been at the Conference with the Council, and had laid before them the several Depositions taken by order of this House upon the inquiry into the causes of the late disturbances, and communicated to them the Address of this House, requesting his lordship to return the Powder removed from the Public Magazine by his Order, and that he would be pleased to provide a proper quantity of Arms and Ammunition for the necessary security and defence of this Country, together with his Lordship's answer thereto, and proposed to the Council to join this House in a proper address to his Excellency, in reply to his Message, in answer to their former joint Address, and also on the subject of the several Papers communicated to them. And that the Council agreed to join this House in the said Address; and that the Managers for this House had drawn up a joint Address accordingly, which was carried to the Council for their Concurrence.

A Message from the Council by Mr Blair:

M^r Speaker,

The Council have agreed to the joint Address to be presented to the Governor, prepared by the Committees of the Council and of this House; and he presented the said address at the Bar.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

The said Address was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

My Lord,

We his Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Council and House of Burgesses of Virginia have received your lordship's Answer to our joint Address, by which we represented to your Excellency how very insecure we thought the publick Arms in the Palace, since your Lordship's removal from thence, and requested that your Lordship would be pleased to order them to be stored in the publick Magazine, judging this a Repository of much greater Security.

You are pleased to tell us, that Experience hath shewn the Insecurity of the Magazine, and that, as the Palace hath hitherto been respected, you thought it improper to give any other Orders, than that the Arms belonging to the King, which have for so many Years been lodged, may still remain, in the Palace; and that they may, on no account be touched without your express Permission. Though these Arms, my Lord, may be considered, in some sort as belonging to his Majesty, as the supreme Head of this Government and that they are properly under your Lordship's Direction, yet we humbly conceive that they were originally provided, and have been preserved, for the Use of the Country, in Cases of Emergency.

We would not wish to interfere with your Lordship's Authority. Of this Disposition we presume our former Address afforded the strongest Testimony; but the Reflection that these Arms are so much exposed, that they may easily be made the most improper and destructive use of, is to us extremely alarming.

The Palace, my Lord, hath indeed been hitherto much respected, but not so much out of Regard to the Building as the Residence of his Majesty's Representative. Had your Lordship thought fit to remain there, we should have had no Apprehensions of Danger; but, considering these Arms at present exposed to your Servants, and every rude Invader, the security formerly derived from your Lordship's Presence cannot now be relied on.

In your Lordship's Answer to an Address of the House of Burgesses, you are pleased to say, that Experience has demonstrated to you that the City of Williamsburg is an improper Place for the Residence of our Governor, and give it as a Reason for not returning the Powder, according to your own voluntary Promise made to the House, that you could not attend to its preservation, nor depend on its Security, if returned to the Magazine. We should suppose, my Lord, that your Excellency's Attention to the Arms would be equally necessary for their Security, as you know the Palace stands on the Edge of the City; and we should, for this Reason, imagine it more likely to be rifled than the Magazine, in the midst of it. Besides, should it be thought necessary, a proper Guard might be kept at the Magazine, which we did not think so decent to propose for your Lordship's Palace. Our Apprehensions, my Lord, have been not a little increased by considering the several Depositions taken by order of the House of Burgesses; we decline commenting upon them, but submit to the World from whence the unhappy Disturbances in this Colony took their Rise. We must, my Lord, once more entreat your Excellency to order the Arms to be removed to the public Magazine.

We cannot, my Lord, decline representing to you that the important Business of this Assembly hath been much impeded by your Excellency's Removal from the Palace. This Step has deprived us of the necessary and free Access to your Lordship, which we conceive the Constitution entitles us to. There are several Bills of the last Importance to this Country, now ready to be presented to your Excellency for your Assent.

We

We have hitherto, my Lord, in hopes of preserving that Harmony, which we wish ever to subsist between all the Branches of our Legislature, submitted to the great Inconvenience of sending our Members twelve Miles to wait on your Excellency, on board one of his Majesty's Ships of War, to present our several Addresses; but we think it would be highly improper, and too great a Departure from the Constitutional and accustomed Mode of transacting the Business of the Assembly, to meet your Excellency at any other Place than the Capitol to present such Bills as have there been agreed to by the Council and House of Burgesses. We must, therefore, beseech your Excellency to return to us; and as the advanced Season of the Year requires our Presence in our several Counties, we hope your Lordship will be pleased to favour us with your speedy and ultimate answer, that we may certainly know what to depend upon.

The said Address being read a second time;

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Resolved, that the House doth agree with the Council in the said Address, to be presented to the Governor.

Ordered, that the said Address be presented to his Excellency by Mr Cary, Mr Attorney General, Mr Lewis, and Mr Christian, in conjunction with such of the Council as shall be appointed to join with them.

Ordered, that Mr Bland do go to the Council, and acquaint them, that this House hath appointed four of their Members to present the said Address to the Governor, in conjunction with such of the Council as shall be appointed for that purpose.

An engrossed Bill to dock the intail of certain Lands, in the County of York, whereof Robert Matthews and Anne his Wife are seised in her Right, and for settling other Lands, to the same Uses, was read the third time.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass; and that the Title be, *An Act¹ to dock the intail of certain Lands, in the County of York, whereof Robert Matthews and Anne his Wife are seised in her Right, and for settling other Lands and Slaves to the same Uses.*

Ordered, that Mr Digges do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

A Message from the Council by Mr Blair:

Mr Speaker,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act² for appointing Commissioners to settle the Accounts of the Militia, lately drawn out into actual Service, and for making Provision to pay the same, without any Amendment; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act³ for raising a Capital sum of forty thousand Pounds Sterling by Subscription, and establishing a Company for opening and extending the navigation of the River Potowmack, without any Amendment; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled, An Act⁴ to vest certain intailed lands, in the County of King William, in John West, Gentleman, in fee simple, and for other purposes therein mentioned, without any Amendment; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act⁵ to continue and amend an Act, intituled an Act to make Provision for the support and maintenance of Ideots, Lunatics, and other Persons of unsound minds, without any Amendment; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Resolve, for paying an Annuity to John Dames; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Resolve, for paying a sum of Money, and an Annuity to Dudley Martin; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Resolve, for paying Salaries to the Keeper and Matron of the public Hospital; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Resolve, for paying a sum of Money, and an Annuity to Elizabeth Croley.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Mr

¹ Not recorded as a law.

² Hening's, IX, p. 61.

³ See Hening's, XI, p. 510.

⁴ Not recorded as a law.

⁵ Hening's, VIII, p. 378.

M^r *Cary* reported from the Committee of Public Claims, to whom it was referred to state an Account of all sums of Money due from the public for Slaves condemned and executed, and of such other Claims as have been agreed by the House to be paid to the Claimants, except those in the Resolves for payment of which the Council have concurred, and to report the same, with the Salaries to the Officers of the General ⁴⁷³ Assembly, in a Schedule, to the House, that the Committee had stated an Account accordingly in a Schedule; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Schedule was read.

Resolved, that the several sums of Money, in the said Schedule mentioned, be paid to the Persons therein named, by the Treasurer out of the Public Money in his Hands.

Ordered, that M^r *Cary* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

The other *Orders* of the Day being read;

Ordered, that the Report, which was made from the Committee, to whom the Bill, for appointing an Agent, was committed, be taken into consideration Tomorrow.

Ordered, that the Call of the House be further adjourned till Tomorrow.

Resolved, that this House will, Tomorrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill to revive an *Act*,¹ for reducing the several *Acts* of Assembly, for making Provision against Invasions and Insurrections, into one *Act*.

Resolved, that this House will, Tomorrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House upon the Bill, to revive an *Act*,² intituled *An Act for the better regulating and disciplining the Militia*.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning ten of the Clock.

Thursday, the 22nd of June, 15 Geo. III. 1775.

THE *Orders* of the Day being read;

Ordered, that the Call of the House be further adjourned till Tomorrow.

⁴⁷⁴ *Ordered*, that the Committee of the whole House, to whom the Bill, to revive an *Act*,¹ for reducing the several *Acts* of Assembly, for making Provision against Invasions and Insurrections, into one *Act*, was committed, be discharged from proceeding upon the said Bill.

Ordered, that the said Bill do lie upon the Table.

Ordered, that the Committee of the whole House, to whom the Bill, to revive an *Act*, intituled *An Act*,² for the better regulating and disciplining the Militia, was committed, be discharged from proceeding upon the said Bill.

Ordered, that the said Bill do lie upon the Table.

Ordered, that the order for taking into Consideration the Report, which was made from the Committee to whom the Bill for appointing an Agent, was committed, be discharged.

Ordered, that the said Report do lie upon the Table.

A *Member* returned upon a new Writ, having taken the Oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, and repeated and subscribed the Test, took his Place in the House.

M^r *Cary* reported, that the joint Address of the Council and this House, of Yesterday, to the Governor, had been presented to his Excellency, who delivered to him an Answer thereunto, which he delivered in at the Clerk's Table, and which was read, and is in the Words following, *viz.*

Gentlemen

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 514.

² *Ibid.*, VIII, p. 503.

Gentlemen of the Council, and House of Burgeesses,

I have already declared my intentions in regard of the Arms at the Palace; and I conceive The Council and House of Burgeesses are interfering in a Matter which does not belong to them. I should be glad to be informed who they design by the Terms rude Invaders, which they have made use of.

The Disorders in Williamsburg and other parts of the Country, drove me to the Necessity of changing my place of Residence, and if any inconvenience had arisen to the Assembly on that Account I am not chargeable with it; but they have not been deprived of any necessary nor free access to me. The Constitution Vests me with an undoubted power to call the Assembly for the business of, to any place in the Colony exigency may require. Not having been made acquainted with the whole proceedings of the Assembly I know of no Bills of importance which, if I were inclined to risk my Person again among the People, the Assembly have to present to me, nor whether they be such as I could assent to.

DUNMORE.

A Message from the Council by M^r Blair:

M^r Speaker,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act¹ to repeal part of the Act of General Assembly, made in the twelfth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled An Act to amend an Act intituled An Act for better preservation of the breed of Deer, and preventing unlawful hunting, without any Amendment; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act² to dock the intail of certain Lands in the County of York, whereof Robert Matthews and Anne his Wife are seised in her Right, and for settling other Lands and Slaves to the same Uses, without any Amendment; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act³ for the ease and relief of the People, by paying the Burgeesses Wages in Money, without any Amendment; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, intituled An Act⁴ to continue and amend an Act, intituled An Act to prevent the exorbitant exactions of the Collectors of the County and Parish levies, with an Amendment, to which Amendment the Council desire the Concurrence of this House; and also,

The Council have agreed to the Resolve for paying several sums of Money to several Persons therein named:

And then the Messenger withdrew.

The House proceeded to take into Consideration the Amendment made by the Council to the Bill, intituled An Act to continue and amend an Act intituled An Act to prevent the exorbitant exactions of the Collectors of the County and Parish levies.

And the said Amendment was read and is as followeth, viz.

At the end of the Bill add, "Provided always that the dues of the Clergy may be distrained for by the Collector, on the tenth of April, and the Collector be obliged to pay the Minister his Salary by the last of May, according to an Act, passed in the twenty second Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King George the Second, for amending the Staple of Tobacco, and for preventing frauds in his Majestys Customs. Provided also, that the execution of this Act shall be, and is hereby, suspended, until his Majestys approbation, thereof shall be obtained."

The said Amendment, being read a second time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, disagreed to by the House.

Ordered, that a Message be sent to the Council, to acquaint them, that this House doth disagree to the Amendment by them proposed to the said Bill, and doth desire that they

¹ Hening's VIII, p. 591

² Not recorded as a law.

³ Hening's, VIII, p. 381.

they will pass the same without the said Amendment; and that Mr. Jones do carry the said Message.

477 *Ordered*, that a Message be sent to the Council to desire them to acquaint this House, whether they have agreed to the Bill intituled, *An Act for appointing Commissioners to Ratify and confirm the late treaty of Peace with the Ohio Indians*; and that Mr. Mercer do carry the said Message.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning, ten of the Clock.

Friday, the 23d of June, 15 Geo. III. 1775.

THE Order of the Day being read;

Ordered, that the Call of the House be further adjourned till Tomorrow.

Ordered, that Mr. Ruffin be added to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

A *Petition* of Andrew Estave was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that, by the present prospect at the public Vineyard, he hopes to shew, that the Vine may be cultivated in this Colony, with great advantage; but that it is necessary, he should have a Vault, in order to enable him to make Wine, and should be supplied with some other Conveniencies, and estimate of which he was ready to lay before the House; and therefore praying the assistance of the House.

A *Motion* was made, and the Question being put, that the sum of Seventy five Pounds be allowed to the said Andrew Estave;

It passed in the Negative.

Resolved, that the said Petition be rejected.

Mr. Mercer reported, that he had according to Order attended the Council, and desired them to acquaint this House, whether they had agreed to the Bill, intituled *An Act for appointing Commissioners to ratify and confirm the late treaty of Peace with the Ohio Indians*; and that the Council will send an answer by a Messenger of their own.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Blair:

478 Mr. Speaker,

I am commanded by the Council to acquaint this House, that the Bill, intituled An Act for appointing Commissioners to ratify and confirm the late Treaty of Peace with the Ohio Indians, is rejected.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Resolved, that a free Conference be desired with the Council on the subject Matter of the treaty to be ratified with the Indians.

Ordered, that Mr. Treasurer do go to the Council and desire the said free Conference.

Mr. Treasurer reported, that he had, according to Order, been at the Council, to desire a free Conference, on the subject matter of the Treaty to be ratified with the Indians; and that the Council will send an answer by a Messenger of their Own.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Blair:

Mr. Speaker,

The Council do agree to a free Conference with this House, as desired; and have appointed two of their Members, who are now ready in the Conference Chamber, to meet the Managers for this House.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Ordered,

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to manage the said Conference.

And a Committee was appointed of Mr Treasurer, Mr Bland, Mr Braxton and Mr Mercer.

Ordered, that the Paper intituled "Substance of the Peace agreed to between the Earl of Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, on the part of that Colony, and the Corn-Stalk, on the part of the Shawanee Indians, intended to be ratified at a general meeting of the Ohio Indians at Fort Dunmore," referred to in the Governor's written message to this House, which, upon Monday, the fifth day of this Instant June was ordered to lie upon the Table, be communicated to the Council at the Conference.

Then the names of the Managers were called over; and they went to the Conference.

And being returned;

Mr Treasurer reported, that the Managers had been at the Conference with the Council, and communicated to them the Paper, intituled, "Substance of the Peace agreed to between the Earl of Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, on the part of that Colony, and the Corn-Stalk, on the part of the Shawanee Indians, intended to be ratified at a general meeting of the Ohio Indians at Fort Dunmore," and that the Council proposed that an Address should be presented to the Governor, that his Excellency would appoint Persons to ratify the Treaty with the Indians, and recommended it to this House to vote a sum of Money not exceeding two thousand Pounds, for that business.

A Message from the Council by Mr Blair:

Mr Speaker,

The Council do not insist upon the Amendment proposed by them to the Bill, intituled An Act¹ to continue and amend an Act, intituled An Act to prevent the exorbitant exactions of the Collectors of the County and Parish Levies.

Mr Attorney General reported to the House, that he had shewn the engrossed Bills and Resolves to the Governor, and that his Excellency was pleased to deliver to him a written Message, which he read in his place, and which is in the Words following, *viz*:

Mr Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses,

The Bill for appointing Commissioners to settle the Accounts of the Militia, lately drawn out into actual Service and for making Provision to pay the same, in as much as it imposes duties upon Slaves imported, I cannot assent to, which by the royal Disallowance of an Act of the Assembly for that purpose passed in the Tenth Year of his present Majesty's reign, You must have been Sensible of; and as the Bill has no suspending Clause, though I made it my business to intimate, by several of your Members, to the House, that without such a Clause I could not pass an Act for emitting paper Money the Miscarriage of a Bill I had very much at heart cannot be attributed to me: and if still those objections can be removed I should be happy to concur in an Act for the rewarding of the brave People who are the particular object of it without delay; if not, all I can do is to transmit the Bill to his Majesty and to desire leave to it, though in regard of the Duty upon Slaves I should not, I think, obtain it.

I see no objection to any other of your Bills or Resolves, and I am therefore ready to give my Assent to them whenever the House desires.

If you have any other Bills ready I must desire they be sent to me in like manner that the whole may be passed together; and I must beg that your Clerk may be ordered to lay before me a Copy of the Journals of the House before the time be fixed for passing the Bills.

DUNMORE.

23^d of June 1775.

Resolved, that an Address be presented to the Governor, in answer to his said written Message.

Ordered,

¹ Hening's, VIII, p. 381.

Ordered, that a Committee be appointed to draw up an Address, to be presented to the Governor upon the said Resolution:

481 And a Committee was appointed of Mr Treasurer, Mr Bland, Mr Mercer, Mr Banister, Mr Digges, and Mr Munford.

Mr Treasurer reported from the Committee appointed to draw up an Address, to be presented to the Governor that the Committee had drawn up an Address accordingly; which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the same in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the same was read, and is as followeth, *viz.*

My Lord,

We his Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Burgesses of Virginia, cannot sufficiently express our Concern that your Lordship should be under any Difficulty in giving your Assent to the Bill for appointing Commissioners to settle the Accounts of the Militia lately drawn out into actual Service, and for making Provision to pay the same, which hath received the Approbation of the other two Branches of the Legislature. We beg leave to remind your Excellency, that you particularly recommended those brave People who are the Objects of this Bill, to our Attention, Sensible of their important Services, we feised, with much Pleasure, the first opportunity afforded us of doing Justice to their singular Merit. Upon considering the most probable ways and Means of effecting this desirable Purpose, we soon found, from the extreme Scarcity of Cash in the Country, that there was no possible Method of doing it, but by a speedy Emission of Paper Money. This Opinion has since been confirmed by Transactions during the present Meeting of the Merchants, which have evinced that the Scarcity is even greater, than we at first supposed. We do not find, my Lord, any thing in this Bill which controvenes any Law or royal Instruction, which hath

482 ever been communicated to us. A suspending Clause we conceive would defeat the very purpose, for which the Bill was intended as it would withhold that Relief, so immediately necessary to the comfort and support of many of our poor Inhabitants, who are in the utmost Distress for want of it.

In Order to support the Credit of our Paper Currency we thought it incumbent on us to establish such Funds as would effectually secure the Redemption of it. In Aid of others, we were of Opinion that a duty of ten per cent on Slaves would be least burthensome to the People. We do not know that such a Duty was ever objected to by his Majesty; on the contrary we understood that a Duty not exceeding ten per Cent was perfectly agreeable to his royal Will and Pleasure. The five Pounds per Poll on Slaves imported from the West Indies was intended to prevent the many Tricks, which had been practiced in this Country to avoid the payment of all Duties on such Slaves and amounts to no more than ten per Cent, valuing them at the moderate Average of fifty Pounds current Money.

We are pleased to find your Excellency approves the other Bill and Resolves submitted to your Inspection. All others, which we propose to trouble your Lordship with, we have consented may undergo the like Examination and flatter ourselves that they will meet with the like Approbation. We still hope, my Lord, that upon reconsidering the Matter you will see sufficient Reasons to alter your first Opinion respecting the Militia Bill, which we have much at Heart, considering it of the last Importance.

We have before, in Conjunction with his Majesty's Council, intimated to your Excellency how very necessary a Recess is at this critical Season; our Harvest demanding our immediate Presence at Home; We must therefore entreat your Excellency to meet us at the Capitol tomorrow in order to give your assent to such Bills and Resolves as are ready to be presented. We hope your Lordship cannot still entertain any groundless fears that your Person can be in the least Danger; If it is possible that you remain under so strange an influence, we pledge our Honors and every thing sacred for your Security. Should your Lordship decline complying with this just Request we hope you'll be pleased to grant your Commission to the President of the Council to give your Assent to such Bills and Resolves As you may Approve and we may present to him.

Since

Since it hath been customary for our Governors to signify their Pleasure as to adjournments, we wish not to take Things out of their old Channel; we therefore hope your Excellency will at the same time express your approbation that we adjourn ourselves to some Day in October next; when our Convenience will best admit an Absence from our Homes and the sickly Season of the Year will probably be over.

We do not wish to conceal from your Excellency one Tittle contained in our Journals; but a full and immediate Transcript of them would require more time than we can possibly devote to the public Busines at present. We must observe that this Demand of us is unusual; however we have ordered all such of our Proceedings as have been printed to be immediately transmitted to your Lcrdship.

The said Address being read a second time,

Resolved, that this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Address, to be presented to the Governor.

Ordered, that the said Address be presented to his Excellency by Mr Attorney ⁴⁸⁴ General and Mr Lewis.

And then the House adjourned till Tomorrow Morning ten of the Clock.

Saturday, the 24th of June, 15 Geo. III. 1775.

MR Attorney General reported, that the Address of Yesterday had been presented to the Governor residing on board The Fowey, one of his Majesty's Ships of War, riding at Anchor in York River, and that his Excellency was pleased to deliver to him a written Anfwer thereto, which he read in his Place, and afterwards delivered in at the Clerk's Table, and which is in the words following, *viz*:

Mr Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Burgeffes,

As you have incumbered the Bill, for the payment of the Officers and Men employed upon the Indian expedition, with an imposition, which you knew I could not assent to, and omitted a form (in no wise tending to defeat the purpose of the Bill) which you were told I could not dispense with, the blame of its not passing now into a Law cannot lie upon me; but I must adhere to the reasons I yesterday signified to you on this head.

The well grounded cause I had for believing my Person not safe at Williamsburg has increased daily; I cannot therefore meet you at the Capitol, as you entreat; but, this day being too far spent, I shall be ready to receive the House on Monday, at twelve of the Clock, at my present residence, for the purpose of giving my Assent to such Acts as I shall approve of.

Altho' the convenience of the Members of the Assembly will always be a strong motive to determine me, as to the time of your meeting or separating, yet it becomes necessary (from an expression in your Address—"that you wish not to take things out of their old Channel"—as if you had such Power) to assert the right of the Crown to adjourn, Prorogue, Dissolve, or Assemble you, as it is thought fit by the Governor of the Colony; I do not mean, however, to oppose the request you make of being adjourned. 15th of June, 1775.

DUNMORE.

The House proceeded to take the said written Anfwer into Consideration.

Resolved, that the House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into Consideration the state of the Colony, and the Governor's written Anfwer to the Address of this House of Yesterday.

Mr

Mr Speaker left the Chair.

Mr Bland took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Mr Bland reported, from the Committee, that the Committee having taken into their most serious consideration the unhappy state of this Colony, and considering the many obstructions given to the due and regular prosecution of the important business depending before the General Assembly, by his Excellency the Governor, in first removing from the Palace on board one of the King's Ships, whereby a free access to him, and that necessary intercourse between his Lordship and the other two branches of the Legislature hath been in a great measure cut off; considering that his Lordship hath withstood the repeated intreaties of the Council and Burgeesses to return to the seat of his Government; and having this Day received such an Answer from his Lordship, as, when compared with his different Messages, and other parts of his Conduct, convinces them of his determination not to do any thing that may be of Advantage to this Colony, and particularly to the inhabitants on our Frontiers, by his requiring the House to attend him on board the *Fowey* Man of War, in order to present such Bills as are now ready for his Assent; thought it a duty highly incumbent on them, for themselves and the whole Body of their Constituents to make several Resolves, in maintenance of their just Rights and Privileges, and in hopes of removing those Prejudices, which have been already and may be again attempted to be excited in the Breasts of their most Gracious Sovereign, and of their fellow Subjects in *Great Britain*; which Resolves the Committee had directed him to report to the House; And he read the Report in his Place and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table; where the Resolutions of the Committee were read, and are as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, that his Lordship's Message, requiring this House to attend him on Board one of his Majesty's Ships of War, is a high Breach of the Rights and Privileges of this House.

Resolved, that the unreasonable delays thrown into the Proceedings of this House by the Governor, and his evasive Answers to the sincere and decent Addresses of the Representatives of the People, give us great reason to fear, that a dangerous attack may be meditated against the unhappy People of this Colony; it is therefore our Opinion that they prepare for the preservation of their property, and their inestimable rights and liberties, with the greatest care and attention.

Resolved, that we do and will bear faith and true allegiance to our most gracious Sovereign *George* the third, our only lawful and rightful King; that we will, at all times, to the utmost of our Power, and at the risque of our Lives and Properties, maintain and defend his Government in this Colony, as founded on the established Laws and Principles of the Constitution.

Resolved, that it is our most earnest desire to preserve and strengthen those bands of Amity with all our fellow Subjects in *Great Britain*, which are so very essential to the prosperity and happiness of both Countries.

Resolved, that it is with the deepest Concern we find ourselves deprived of an opportunity of making immediate Provision for those gallant Officers and Soldiers, who so nobly defended this Country, against the incursions of the *Indians*, unless we would sacrifice their own, and the inestimable Rights and Privileges of all other inhabitants of this Colony; that as we have already endeavoured to make the most ample Provision for this necessary purpose, so will we gladly seize every opportunity afforded us of doing the utmost Justice to those brave Men, and all other public Creditors.

The said *Resolutions* being severally read a second time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Resolved, nemine contradicente, that his Lordships Message, requiring this House to attend him on Board one of his Majesty's Ships of War, is a high Breach of the Rights and Privileges of this House.

Resolved,

Resolved, nemine Contradicente, that the unreasonableness thrown into the Proceedings of this House by the Governor, and his evasive Answer to the sincere and decent Addresses of the Representatives of the People, give us great reason to fear, that a dangerous attack may be meditated against the unhappy People of this Colony: it is therefore our Opinion, that they prepare for the Preservation of their Property, and their inestimable Rights and Liberties, with the greatest Care and Attention. 488

Resolved, nemine contradicente, that we do and will bear faith and true allegiance to our most gracious Sovereign *George* the third, our only lawful and rightful King; that we will, at all times, to the utmost of our Power, and at the risque of our Lives and Properties, maintain and defend his Government in this Colony, as founded on the established Laws and Principles of the Constitution.

Resolved, nemine contradicente, that it is our most earnest desire to preserve and strengthen those bands of Amity with all our fellow Subjects in *Great Britain*, which are so very essential to the Prosperity and happiness of both Countries.

Resolved, nemine contradicente, that it is with the deepest concern we find ourselves deprived of an opportunity of making immediate provision for those gallant Officers and Soldiers, who so nobly defended this Country against the incursions of the Indians, unless we would Sacrifice their own, and the inestimable Rights and Privileges of all other Inhabitants of this Colony; that, as we have already endeavoured to make the most ample Provision for the necessary purpose, so will we gladly seize every opportunity afforded us of doing the utmost Justice to those brave Men, and all other public Creditors.

Certain *information* having been received of the great discontent of the *Ohio Indians*, by reason of the delay of the Ratification of the late treaty of Peace concluded upon by his Excellency the Governor, on the part of this Colony and the *Cornstalk*, 489 on the part of the said *Indians*, and that the Inhabitants on our Frontiers are under just apprehensions of a renewal of an *Indian War*, and no steps having been pursued by his Lordship for carrying on the said Treaty, or delivering up the *Indian Hostages*, agreeable to the terms of the said Treaty;

Resolved, that the said Treaty be immediately entered upon; and that *George Washington, Thomas Walker, James Wood, Andrew Lewis, John Walker, and Adam Stephen*, Esquires, or any three or more of them, be, and they are hereby constituted and appointed, Commissioners, on the part and behalf of this Colony, to meet the Chiefs or head Men of the said *Ohio Indians*, as soon as the same can be done, at such place, as they shall find most proper, to ratify and confirm the said Treaty, on the part of this Colony, and to demand and receive of the said *Indians* the ratification and full performance of the said Treaty on their parts; and that *Robert Carter Nicholas*, Esquire, Treasurer, or the Treasurer for the time being, shall, and is hereby directed and required to, pay all such expences and charges, out of the public Money in his Hands, as may be incurred on Account of such Treaty, provided the same do not exceed the sum of two thousand Pounds, for which the said Commissioner shall account to the next General Assembly.

Ordered, that M^r *Mercer* do carry the Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence.

A Message from the Council by M^r *Blair*:

M^r *Speaker*,

The Council have agreed to the Resolve for appointing Commissioners to ratify the Treaty of Peace with the Ohio Indians, and for defraying the expense thereof.

Whereas several Companies of the Militia of this Colony have been drawn out into actual Service, by command of his Excellency the Governor, for the defence and protection of the Frontiers against the Incursions and depredations of the *Indians*; and there are now due several large sums of Money, as well for the pay of such Militia, as for Provisions, Arms, and other necessaries furnished them; and it will be a great saving

saving to the Colony, as well as ease to the Claimants, to have such Accounts adjusted by Commissioners in the Country.

Resolved, therefore, that *Archibald Cary, William Cabell, William Fleming, John Winn, and John Nicholas*, Gentlemen, or any three or more of them, be, and they are hereby appointed, Commissioners for the Counties of *Fincastle, Botetourt, Culpeper, Pittsylvania, Halifax, and Bedford*, and for that part of the County of *Augusta*, which lies of the Eastward of the *Allegany Mountains*, and that *Richard Lee, Francis Peyton, Jofias Clapham, Henry Lee, and Thomas Blackburn*, Gentlemen, or any three or more of them, be, and they are hereby appointed, Commissioners for the other Counties, and for that part of the County of *Augusta* which lies to the Westward of the *Allegany Mountains*, and for the Provinces of *Maryland and Pennsylvania*, to examine, state, and settle the Accounts of the pay of the Militia, and of all Provisions, Arms, Ammunition, and other necessaries, furnished the said Militia of the Counties, for which they are appointed Commissioners; and report the same to the General Assembly.

And then the House adjourned until Thursday, the twelfth day of October next, at ten of the Clock in the Morning.

Thursday, the 12th of October, 15 Geo. III. 1775.

The House met according to the *Adjournment*; but no more than thirty seven Members appearing, which was not a sufficient number to proceed to Busines.

The House adjourned til the first *Thursday* in *March* next.

Thursday, the 7th of March, 16 Geo. III. 1776.

The House met according to the *Adjournment*; but no more than thirty two Members appearing, which was not a sufficient number to proceed to Busines;

The House adjourned til the first *Monday* in *May* next.

Monday, the 6th of May, 16 Geo. III. 1776.

Several *Members* met, but did neither proceed to Busines, nor adjourn, as a House of *Burgesses*.

FINIS.

MINUTES

of the

Committee of Correspondence

1775

MINUTES

of the

Committee of Correspondence

⁵¹² **A**T a Meeting of the Select Committee of Correspondence in the City of Williamsburg on Friday the 7th of April. 1775.

Ordered, that Letters be prepared to the Delegates for the Province of New-York, and to Isaac Low, Esq: agreeable to the Resolution of the late Convention.

A Letter was accordingly prepared to the Delegates which being read was approved, as follows.

Williamsburg Virg^a. April 7th. 1775.

GENTLEMEN,

The late Convention of the Representatives of this Colony judging it essential to the Common Interest of America, that every Proper Means should be used to preserve an Union of Sentiments amongst the Colonies, and, in Case of Defection, that they should be able to distinguish their Friends, came to a Resolution of which we have by this Conveyance transmitted a Copy to the Committee of Correspondence of New York. That we may omit no Means of obtaining the most authentic Information, we take [the liberty] of inclosing you a Copy of the same Resolution, and shall hold ourselves much obliged, if you will be pleased to exert your particular Endeavours to enable us to make a satisfactory Report to our next Convention or Assembly.

We are, very respectfully, y^r mo: ob^r. S^r.

Peyton Randolph.

No. C. Nicholas.

Dudley Digges.

To Isaac Low, James Duane, John Jay, Phil. Livingston, John Alsop, Will; Floyd, Henry Wisner, John Herring & S. Boerum Esq^r.

And also a Letter to the Committee of Correspondence for New York, as follows.

W^{ms}burg Virg^a. April 7th 1775.

GENT:

The inclosed Resolutions of our late Convention will fully explain the Reasons for our troubling you with this Letter. We have only further to express our earnest Wishes that you would be pleased, by the earliest opportunity, to furnish us with the most authentic Information, that we may be able to make a satisfactory Report to our next Convention or Assembly.

We have the honor to be Gent. your respectful humble Servants.

Peyton Randolph.

No. C. Nicholas.

Dudley Digges.

To the Committee of Correspondence for New York.

A LETTER RECEIVED

by the

Committee of Correspondence

1775

New York.

New York, May 5th. 1775.

GENTLEMEN,

At a Time when the most vigorous Exertions of ministerial Power, and the Blood of our Brethren in the Massachusets has been actually shed, for daring to maintain the Rights of Englishmen, the Inhabitants of this City and County have, in the most explicit Manner, (as you may perceive by the inclosed Association) resolved to stand and fall with the Freedom of the Continent.

We are confident that our Constituents are sincere in the strong assurances they have given us, that while we continue in Office they will be guided by our Advice and Direction. We have thought it necessary to advise the withholding Supplies from the British Fisheries, on the American Coasts, and to cease all Exports to those Colonies, which, at this alarming Juncture, refuse to unite in the common Cause. The Expedient is too evident to need any Elucidation, and will doubtless procure us many hearty Advocates in Britain, besides which we have resolved to withhold all provisions from the Army and Navy at Boston.

Our late Committee of Observation thought proper to recommend the Appointment of a Provincial Congress in Consequence of which our Constituents have chosen twenty one Deputies, to meet at this City on the 22^d Ins^t those who may be appointed for that purpose in the other Counties of this Colony. For your further Satisfaction on these Matters, we beg leave to refer you to the inclosed Papers; we request you to communicate the Substance of this Information to your next Neighbours, and to assure that in our Department we shall watch incessantly for the publick Safety.

By order of the Committee, I am Gent: your mo: ob^t.

Henry Remsen.
Dep^r. Chairman

The Inclosures¹ are filed with the Letter.

¹ Missing.

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